

Interest rate fall expected

Bank of England officials have accepted that bank interest rates are likely to fall by half a percentage point soon. American interest rates are falling sharply, and British rates must slip a little to stop the pound soaring. Page 19

Line put on drifting oil rig

After several unsuccessful attempts, a line was put on board Transworld 58, the British oil rig adrift in a stormy North Sea for 37 hours. Twenty men were still on the rig, which was followed all day by five vessels. Page 2

BAOR bomb claim by INLA

The Irish National Liberation Army, which killed Mr Airey Neave, Conservative spokesman on Ulster, claimed responsibility in Dublin for a bomb that exploded at a British Army base in Herford, West Germany. One soldier was treated for shock. Page 2

Arab summit collapses

King Hassan of Morocco cancelled the Arab League summit conference in Fez hours after it opened, the official Moroccan news agency MAP announced. A senior Moroccan official said the king had decided to cancel the meeting because the Arab leaders were hopelessly deadlocked over the Saudi Arabian peace plan for the Middle East. Page 8

Legal brothels to be considered

Legalization of brothels in certain areas of cities is to be considered, it was announced in the House of Commons. Mr. William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said that the Criminal Law Revision Committee would shortly issue a working paper for public comment on prostitution. Parliamentary report, page 6



Pictures of body make jurors ill

A judge temporarily halted a murder trial at the Central Criminal Court when three jurors felt unwell while looking at photographs of a dismembered body. The jury were sent to their room. Page 6

Heikal freed from prison

Mr Mohamed Heikal, the Egyptian journalist and former editor of Al-Ahram, was among 31 prominent Egyptians released from prison yesterday by President Mubarak, three months after they had been arrested on the orders of the late President Sadat. Back page

De Lorean calls in all cars

The De Lorean motor company is recalling for a safety check the 1,715 cars it has sold so far, all in the United States. The company said a nut securing the lower ball joint and stabilizer bar on the front suspension could work loose. Page 10

EEC talks begin today

EEC heads of government begin a two-day summit meeting in London today, with the Community budget, common agricultural policy and regional policies the main issues on the agenda. Page 10

Leader, page 15

Letters: On glittering prizes, from the Chairman of Beecham Products and others; Ulster, from Mr David Smyth. Leading articles: Scarman; Schmidt-Brezhnev summit. Features, page 14

A black view of the Scarman Report; Robert Fisk reports on Exercise Bright Star; Peter Watson's London Diary. Obituaries, page 17

Mr Stephen Williams; Dr Arnold Pines

Scarman's plan for racial peace wins wide backing

The Government has promptly accepted Lord Scarman's main proposals for reforming the way racially mixed inner cities are policed. Police representatives gave qualified support, but publication yesterday of Lord Scarman's report into last April's rioting in Brixton disappointed some positive discrimination in favour of the minorities, said some representatives of ethnic groups. Many had expected sharper criticism of the police handling of the riots, whereas Lord Scarman generally gives praise for a force that "stood between our society and a total collapse of law and order". Lord Scarman, commending his call for some positive discrimination in favour of the minorities, said: "We have got to get our three or four societies into one society."

By Lucy Hodges and Peter Evans

MAIN POINTS

- Statutory consultative committees to make the police more accountable.
- Greater independent oversight of police complaints procedure.
- Longer and improved police recruit training on dealing with public and preventing and handling disorder.
- Racially prejudiced behaviour by police to be a dismissal offence.
- Better coordinated attack on inner-city problems.
- No reform of Riot Act.

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Summing up his own report, Lord Scarman said: "What we have got to get out of this is one, two, three or four societies back into one society."

Lord Scarman's report, which runs to 150 pages, blames police, politicians and the community at large for the violent collapse of law and order. Urgent action is needed to prevent the disease of racial disadvantage from "threatening the very survival of our society". Lord Scarman calls for a "direct co-ordinated attack" by central government and local authorities to eliminate the racial inequality from the country's social fabric. This "inevitably means that the ethnic minorities will enjoy for a time a positive discrimination in their favour. But it is a price worth paying."

He says that on the weekend of April 10-12, the British people watched with horror and incredulity the presentation of scenes of violence and disorder in their capital, the like of which had not previously been seen in Britain this century. "In the centre of Brixton, a few hundred young people—most, but not all of them, black—stacked the police on the streets with stones, bricks, iron bars and petrol bombs, demonstrating to millions of their fellow citizens the fragile basis of the Queen's peace. The petrol bomb was used for the first time on the streets of Britain."

"These young people, by their criminal behaviour—for such whatever their grievances and frustrations, it was brought about a temporary

collapse of law and order in the centre of an inner suburb of London." Fortunately, no one was killed. But 279 policemen and 45 members of the public were injured, 28 police officers were burned, and there was widespread looting.

Lord Scarman says the police must carry some responsibility for the outbreak of disorder. Scarman's criticisms are that, firstly, policemen were partly to blame for the breakdown in community relations, secondly, there were instances of harassment and racial prejudice against junior officers on Brixton streets, which gave credibility and substance to critics of the police, and thirdly, there was a failure to adjust policies and methods to meet the needs of policing and a multi-racial society.

But Lord Scarman goes on to commend the tactics, courage and dedication of the police in handling the terrifying lawlessness of the crowd. "They stood between our society and a total collapse of law and order in the streets of an important part of the capital. For that they deserve, and must receive, the praise and thanks of all sections of our community. It was a tribute to their restraint that no one died."

Lord Scarman says that allegations of over-reaction, brutality and unreasonable aggression by police in response to the rioters were unfounded. The failures, he says, were only part of the

story and arose in difficult circumstances.

"The community and community leaders in particular must take their share of the blame for the atmosphere of distrust and mutual suspicion between the police and the community which developed in Lambeth during the 1970s, and reached its apogee in the weeks prior to the disorders."

His report includes recommendations for the reform of relationships between police and the community and calls for a statutory liaison committee at local level, reform of the police complaints procedure, better and longer police training and more black police recruits. Lord Scarman says that policing must be with the consent of the community.

He rejects the idea of a new Riot Act, but recommends amendments to the Public Order Act and says racial discrimination should be made an offence under police disciplinary code, punishable by dismissal. A major innovation proposed is that lay police station visitors should make random checks on the interrogation and detention of suspects.

The report rejects many of the criticisms made of the police at his inquiry and says that senior officers are not racist. He finds they did not over-react to the disorders, that they were right not to withdraw and that their strategy and tactics are to be commended. Brixton's blacks welcomed the report but there was criticism, notably from Mr Devan Thomas, a spokesman for the Brixton Defence Campaign, which boycotted Lord Scarman's inquiry. Mr Thomas said that Mr Herman Ouseley, Lambeth's principal race relations adviser, who is to take over a similar job at the Greater London Council.

Mr Thomas condemned the report for its support of the police and Mr Ouseley said Lord Scarman was wrong to reject the idea that racism was institutionalized in Britain. The strongest criticism came from Mr Keith Jenkins, a spokesman for the Labour-controlled Lambeth council, who said he was bitterly disappointed. What the borough needed was more resources, he maintained.

Concluding his report, Lord Scarman says "institutional racism" does not exist in Britain, but racial disadvantage and its nasty associate—discrimination—have not yet been eliminated. These poison minds and attitudes and, so long as they remain, will continue to be a potent factor of unrest.

In the Commons

I'll act swiftly, says Whitelaw

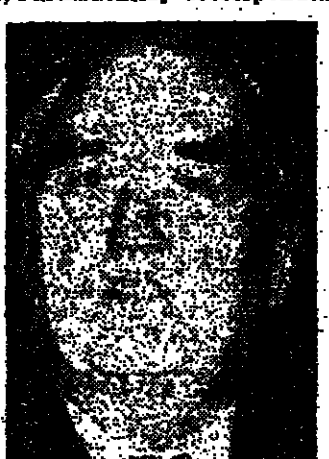
By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent, Westminster

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, in an unusually swift response to an independent judicial inquiry, yesterday accepted many, if not most, of the recommendations made by Lord Scarman in his report. In particular he accepted those proposals affecting the relationship between the police and the public and promised speedy action.

He told the Commons that, contrary to the normal reaction of a government in such circumstances, he had immediately accepted many of the recommendations. He emphasized, in advance of a full debate on the report, that he also accepted those proposals in the report that Mr Roy Hattersley, Opposition spokesman on home affairs, had specifically asked him to accept. Those were, a more independent police complaints procedure, improved police training, greater punishment for racially motivated behaviour, and the proscription of racist marches.

With both Mr Whitelaw and Mr Hattersley making considerable concessions in an attempt to appease the more militant extremes on their respective back benches, it was difficult at first to discern that both front benches were basically in agreement over the recommendations and the debt owed to Lord Scarman. The exchanges began with some fireworks from Mr Hattersley, who accused the Home Secretary of giving a false impression of the contents of the report by making selective quotations from it. He then went on to make his own selective quotations, complaining that the language used by Mr Whitelaw in his statement was opaque.

The reasons for that early sparring soon became clear as certain elements on both sides of the House polarized predict-



Mr Whitelaw: Promises speedy action.

ably. Some Tories were unwilling to accept anything even mildly critical of the police and some Labour MPs were only too ready to place all the ills of society at the door of the forces of law and order. As a sop to these elements in their respective parties, Mr Whitelaw's selective quotation spoke of the courage and dedication displayed by the police and emergency services in Brixton, and Mr Hattersley chose a section describing the complex political, social, and economic factors that lay behind the riots.

Feelings in the Commons were running high as Mr Hattersley said that Lord Scarman's backing for the necessary changes gave them a dimension of authority and objectivity that raised them above the disputes of party politics.

"He's just a judge," shouted Mr Tony Marlow (Northampton, North), one of the hard men of the Tory outbreak. But, in spite of the roars, growls,

and grunts from the jungles on both sides of the House, Mr Hattersley went on to describe the report as an historic work which should be used as the foundation on which to build the relationship between the police and the public could be based. He suggested that to reject all or any of the proposals would be to reject the whole of the good community relations in an unacceptable way. The Opposition, he added, was ready to accept and implement all recommendations.

Mr Whitelaw hotly rejected the accusation that he was being opaque and it was soon evident, once the party political verbiage was cleared away, that both parties accepted and welcomed the report. The Home Secretary, although not so effusive as Mr Hattersley, said that the House and the country owed a considerable debt to Lord Scarman. He fully accepted the recommendations in the report for the concept of hard and soft policing and the emphasis on the duty of the police to apply the law firmly and sensitively without differing standards.

Mr Whitelaw told the House that he accepted the need to develop formal arrangements in every police area for consultation between the police and the community. Chief officers of police should be involved in local social and economic decisions affecting policing.

The Home Secretary also accepted that more effort should be put into training, with new emphasis on the problems of policing a multi-racial society and on the prevention and handling of disorder. That training must be for those already in the service as well as for recruits. He agreed that the procedure for handling complaints against the police must be much re-



President Brezhnev grabs at his hat as an unexpected gust hits him just before his inspection of a guard of honour in the ceremony marking the end of his visit to Bonn yesterday.

Schmidt takes lead in European arms talks

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Nov. 25

West Germany today emphasized its key role in East-West relations by making it clear that it will take an active part in the sidings of Monday's Geneva missile negotiations. Through diplomatic channels, talking to both the Soviet Union and the United States. Reporting to the Cabinet on the meeting between President Brezhnev and Chancellor Schmidt, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, said the contacts with the Russians on the European missile question, developed at the two-day talks, would be continuing through diplomatic channels.

It was understood that the aim was to exchange views and influence Soviet thinking and assessments of American policy.

This was in no way intended to be a special West German-Soviet channel behind the backs of the Americans. West Germany would act as a member of the alliance and would keep the other members fully informed.

The West German intentions, however, do appear to be a new element at the Geneva talks. The negotiations are really between the United States and the Soviet Union, along with West Germany. A main battlefield in any European nuclear war, has considerable influence on the American position through the Nato special consultative group, which coordinates policy.

The West Germans have long seen their task in Nato as that of an "interpreter" explaining, persuading and trying to dispel mutual distrust. How the Americans will view parallel German-Soviet contacts remains to be seen. Herr Bernd von Staden, the Chancellor's chief foreign policy aide, has some reservations about the move, according to what he files to Washington. On Friday he briefed the Reagan Administration on the talks.

Mr Brezhnev left for Moscow today. The Russian and West Germans published a joint communiqué saying

that every effort must be made in Geneva to achieve an agreement which would bring medium-range missiles to the lowest possible level. It said that there were "differences of opinion" about how this was to be achieved.

Mr Schmidt, the Chancellor, said that the talks would be continuing through diplomatic channels. He said that the talks would be continuing through diplomatic channels. He said that the talks would be continuing through diplomatic channels.

They agreed to develop co-operation in science, technology, and culture, where improvements have been held up largely by the inclusion of West Berlin. Mr Brezhnev indicated he would turn a blind eye to the involvement of West Berlin so long as it was done tactfully.

Summing up Mr Brezhnev's visit, West German sources said the fact that the Soviet Union was actually going to Geneva and the fact that Mr Brezhnev had said the Soviet Union was prepared to agree to a reduction of "hundreds" of missiles. Leading article, page 15

Council tenants face rent rises

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A large council-owned house rents and a cut in the real value of unemployment benefit seen certain to be agreed by the Cabinet today, as it puts the final touches to a package of reductions on Cabinet's planned public spending.

The spending plans and new forecasts for the economy are expected to be announced next Wednesday. Among them there is likely to be an increase of about £500m in the amount which state industries are allowed to borrow for their investment.

After weeks of argument between the Treasury and spending ministers, in which Mrs Margaret Thatcher has recently intervened, the Cabinet will today agree to public spending in 1982-83 of £115,000m, about some £5,000m more than originally planned.

The Treasury originally assumed spending next year of £110,000m, but estimates from spending ministers totalled about £117,000m. Because of optimistic revenue forecasts for next year, the Treasury expressed a readiness to increase spending to go "between £3,000m and £4,000m higher than previously planned."

The debate over past weeks has been about the remaining £3,500m, and the indications last night were that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been able to find only about £2,000m, leaving a total overshoot of about £5,000m.

Speculation that the real value of unemployment benefit was to be reduced for the second year, raising what was increased last night after Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, told the City Conservative Forum in London that the "share" which those in work were facing real-terms cuts in their standard of living, those on short-term benefit may have to do the same.

But he added: "There is a very clear limit to what is possible of socially acceptable cuts in what really costs the nation are out of work." The remark suggested that the supplementary benefit safety net for the poorest families may be preserved.

Today's Cabinet is expected to settle the long-winded argument between the Treasury and the Department of the Environment over the level of council house rents and the percentage cut in rate support grants.

Sir Geoffrey Howe is expected to propose a rent rise of between 2.5% and 3.5% a week, compared with the 1.5% originally suggested by the Environment and the 4% by the Treasury.

In their campaign against profiteering local authorities, ministers yesterday failed to agree on the next step. They appeared to have decided to delay once again the second reading of the Local Government Finance Bill, now that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, has accepted that his referendum promise should be dropped.

No conclusion was reached on the alternatives to referendum. Continued on back page, col 6

Williams set for Crosby victory

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Government was last night expected to win a second by-election defeat at the present Parliament in Crosby today and its second drubbing in five weeks at the hands of the Social Democratic and Liberal Alliance.

In spite of protestations of disbelief by the SDP Alliance candidate, Mrs Shirley Williams, in the message of the opinion polls, and in spite of contradictory findings by the "big parties" canvassers, there was growing belief in each camp as campaigning ended that Mrs Williams will be back at Westminster next week, two-and-a-half years after her defeat in the general election.

The latest opinion poll in today's Daily Star, based on interviews with Crosby voters as recently as yesterday, indicates a 15-point lead for Mrs Williams over the Conservative candidate, Mr John Burcher, and a lost deposit for Mr John Burcher, the Labour contestant. The figures are: SDP Alliance 40; Conservative 26; Labour 11; Others 4.

Chancing "right to work" demonstrators last night halted an SDP-led election rally at a school hall (the Press Association wires). Mrs Williams and four guest speakers, left the stage when a group of 40 people in the audience jeered and shouted, leaving slogans. Police were called.

A shaken Mrs Williams said: "This proves everything I have been saying about the far left." She and her guests then addressed about 700 people in another school hall.

The polling organization, Market & Opinion Research International (MORI), estimates that turnout today will be about 65 per cent, and that there would be a majority of between 6,000 and 7,000 for Mrs Williams. That would represent a swing from the Conservatives to the Alliance since the general election of 1979.

"That would be higher than the swing the government swings when Mr William Pitt, standing as the Liberal Alliance candidate with SDP support, won Croydon North-west from the Government in the by-election last year," Mrs Williams said.

The National Opinion Poll findings, published in yesterday's Daily Mail, gave Mrs Williams a 15-point lead over the Conservatives and were looked at askance by the candidates' wings.

Mrs Williams described the figures as "simply unbelievable." Mr Burcher, insisting that they did not square with Conservative canvassers' returns, said that he was still finding strong loyalty to the Government among voters, and he forecast a spectacular victory today.

Mr Burcher said that he believed Conservative voters were deliberately seeding the opinion polls and his campaign managers said that in the last days of the campaign they had found that about three out of five voters previously un-

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Part-timers in equal rights tussle

The hearing of an industrial tribunal claim that could bring about a new form of equal rights for working women opened in Birmingham yesterday. Claims of sexual discrimination and unfair dismissal were entered by 15 women who say they were made redundant because they were only part-time workers.

Their claims are being backed by the Council for Civil Liberties and the Equal Opportunities Commission, which sees the issue as a test case for thousands of part-time working women.

The tribunal is hearing two cases of the 15. The women were among 60 part-timers made redundant in October by Eley Kynoch ammunition makers and a part of the IMI group, of Witton, Birmingham. The hearing continues today.

Sergeant jailed for shooting

Anthony Geraghty, aged 36, a sergeant with the Royal Anglian Regiment at Basildon, Essex, was jailed for five years at Norwich yesterday for wounding William Boyle, a garage owner, with intent to cause harm. He was cleared of attempted murder.

Geraghty armed himself with three Browning pistols and shot Mr Boyle in the right buttock in a dispute over a car.

NGA president a moderate

Mr Bryn Griffiths, widely regarded as a moderate, has been elected president of the National Graphical Association, in a four-cornered contest (Our Labour Editor writes).

He succeeds Mr Leslie Dixon, Mr George Jerrard, Communist, came bottom of the poll.

£37,000 award for cadmium worker

A refrigeration plant worker who contracted cadmium poisoning has been awarded £37,000 damages in the Court of Session in Edinburgh against Prestcold (Scotland) Ltd after it was claimed he had lost all scope for enjoyment of life.

Mr Peter O'Neill, aged 63, of Willow Drive, Johnstone, Renfrewshire, had worked at the plant for nearly 24 years. Interest was added to the award, making a total of about £45,000.

Baby thrown to safety

Elizabeth Bridgland, aged 22, threw her son, Thomas, aged 12 days, from a second-floor window into a blanket held by pedestrians when fire swept her home in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, yesterday. The baby was being kept in hospital for observation last night.

Rembrandt charge

David Williams, aged 30, of Stainton Road, south east London, manager of a jeweller's shop, will appear before Carnwell magistrates today charged with stealing a Rembrandt painting from Dulwich picture gallery.

Detonators stolen

The police have issued a warning that 240 fog warning detonators stolen from Leichworth railway station, Herefordshire, could be dangerous if misused. The detonators are about the size of an oil can cap.

Snake Pass bought

The National Trust is buying one of the most scenic roads in England, the A57 Snake Pass between Manchester and Sheffield, in the Derbyshire Peak District.

Fish talks postponed

A meeting of EEC ministers in Brussels, at which agreement to be sought on a common fisheries policy, has been postponed until December 14.

Irish terror gang say they blasted UK German base

The Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) group that murdered Mr Airey Neave, the Conservative spokesman on Northern Ireland, in 1979, last night claimed responsibility for two bombing attacks on British installations in West Germany. They said their "volunteers" were behind yesterday's blast at an Army barracks at Herford in north-east Germany and Tuesday's attack on the British Consulate in Hamburg.

The Herford incident happened at the headquarters of the 7th Signals Regiment. A bomb was planted against an outside wall of an accommodation block inside the camp at Maresfield Barracks, near the perimeter fence. A small explosion smashed windows and damaged the wall of one building. No one was hurt.

The INLA's statement was delivered to the Dublin office of The Sunday Times, the newspaper's Dublin correspondent writes. The INLA is reputed to be the INLA's political arm.

Two men were slightly injured when a gunman attacked the headquarters of Provisional Sinn Féin, the political wing of the INLA in Dublin last night (Our Dublin Correspondent writes). Four shots were fired. The gunman escaped.

Roman Catholic politicians last night were demanding an inquiry into a claim that off-duty members of the security forces were members of the Rev. Ian Paisley's so-called "third force" (Christopher Thomas and Tim Jones write from Belfast). Demands for an inquiry came after a third force commander in London, who said that police officers and Ulster Defence Regiment members were among more than 100 men who marched in the city on Tuesday night.

In a statement last night, the police said: "If any person has any evidence that members of the security forces are engaged in unlawful activity, this should be communicated to the local police and the matter will be thoroughly investigated."

The show of force in Londonderry came immediately after the warning from Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, that the Government would not tolerate private armies.

Mr Michael Canavan, law and order spokesman for the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said he had asked the police for an immediate investigation.

The Rev. Ian Foster, who described himself as commander of the Fermanagh unit of the third force, said patrols were about to be sent out every evening to guard border areas. No off-duty members of the security forces would join the patrols. It would be up to "district commanders" to decide whether to carry arms that they held legally.

Spending is steadied by squeeze

By Frances Williams

The average British family spent £110.60 a week last year, 174 per cent more than in 1979. But with price rises of about 17 per cent taken into account, real spending was little higher in 1980 than in 1979.

The figures come from the 1980 Family Expenditure Survey, the first results of which are published in the Department of Employment's Gazette released yesterday. They are based on records kept by nearly 7,000 households throughout the United Kingdom.

Food remains the biggest single item of spending, accounting for 23 per cent of the total, followed by housing, transport and vehicles, each at 15 per cent.

In real terms, after taking account of price rises, households made quite big adjustments in their spending. They increased purchases of food by 5 per cent, encouraged by below-average price rises. But they cut back fuel spending by 6 per cent, in real terms.

Price rises were not the only factor determining people's spending choices, however. The average family spent £1.89 a week on fares and £13.11 on buying and running the family car. It spent £1.35 on television but only 12p a week on the cinema.

The average family also spent £3.05 a week on cigarettes and £3.34 a week on alcohol (representing 5 per cent of total expenditure).

The weekly food bill averaged £25.15, of which £1.83 went on milk, £1.24 on bread and £1.22 on biscuits and cakes. Chicken was by far the most popular meat, accounting for £2.03 a week, followed by £1.60 on beef and veal.

A more detailed breakdown of spending patterns reveals that council house rents rose by 25 per cent from an average £8.30 a week in 1979 to £10.38 in 1980. Private rents increased by only 71 per cent from £7.38 to £12.64 a week, while payments to buy or alter homes, including mortgage repayments, rose 19 per cent from £8.01 to £9.56 a week.

The survey also discloses that women spend more than men on clothes. Spending on "women's outer clothing" averaged £2.57 a week compared with only £1.50 for men.

Cable put on board drifting oil rig

From Richard Ford in Aberdeen and Craig Seton in Stavanger, Norway

A line was successfully put on board a drifting oil rig in the North Sea yesterday after several earlier attempts had been made in stormy weather.

The steel rope was finally put on board the Transworld 58, carrying 20 men, from the tug anchor handler Arie after the 9,200-ton rig had been adrift in heavy seas for 37 hours.

Throughout the day the rig had been followed by five vessels which attempted to get lines to it as soon as daylight came. Once the first line was on board other attempts were being made to get two more lines over so that the rig could be towed.

Last night Hamilton Brothers Oil and Gas, who own the unit from which 44 men were evacuated early on Tuesday, were deciding whether the rig should be towed back to its location in the Argyll Field or into a port.

A spokesman for the Aberdeen-based firm said: "We are delighted a line is on board. It has been a terrible operation as the weather is still bad, with strong winds and high waves. There was no danger to anyone involved but obviously it is nice to get it all back together."

As the 44 men evacuated from the rig, which is on a south-east, shadowed by the vessels. Alongside the Oris, which is on contract to Hamilton Brothers to do work in the Argyll Field, were the Hearten Turn, also a tug anchor handler, and the tug vessel Wilma Mermaid and John Viking, and the Balder Viking, a diving support vessel.

In Aberdeen the 44 men arrived from Norway aboard a chartered Dan Air flight. They told of the five hours they waited on board the deck of the rig in winds of up to 100 mph and with 60ft waves crashing into the installation, while the helicopters lifted them off.

Back on land, one man who did not want to be named said: "Despite everything, I shall be back. I feel as safe as houses aboard Transworld."

Dazed and tired passengers last night disembarked at North Shields from a North Sea ferry after a 50-hour voyage (Our South Shields Correspondent writes). They had been on board the Danish Seaways ferry, Dana Gloria, which should have arrived in the side of Tuesday after a voyage of 18 hours.

Another description of the Transworld 58 during those moments was that she was like a toy boat in a bath.

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Pensions parity sought

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Private pension groups yesterday urged the Government to start talks with opposition parties to produce joint proposals on having a single retirement age for men and women by the end of the century.

The suggestion was made by the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF), president of the Commons select committee on social services, which is considering the age of retirement.

The association proposed that equalisation should begin in April 1982, with transitional arrangements spread over the next 20 years. During that transitional phase, pensions now paid to dependent wives before they reached retirement age should be phased out.

Mr Michael, NAPF president, said the concept of dependent wives was inconsistent with the notion of equality of the sexes.

He expected that transport union leaders will now act on a local recommendation to make the strike official. BL denied last night that the unions had offered to return to the previous Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Sir Michael and other BL executives have so far adopted a low-key approach to the

BL men's tea break strike may be made official

By Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Another crisis is looming for BL in the wake of the collapse last night of two days of talks aimed at ending the tea break strike which has stopped production at its Longbridge power plant for nearly three weeks. There are management fears the strike may be made official.

It is less than a month since the last confrontation, when Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, threatened to dismiss those taking part in a strike against a 3.8 per cent wage offer, and to liquidate the factories affected.

On the intervention of Mr Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, with the assistance of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service ended the strike by 50,000 of BL's 58,000 manual workers.

Last night shop stewards leaders were predicting another intervention by Sir Michael. A senior Longbridge steward said: "I expect he will threaten to sack us on the basis of a collapse of the management and unions last night went to the offices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service for talks (a Staff Reporter writes)."

Seamless leaders and P & O officials had a surprise 12-hour meeting at Acas headquarters in London yesterday to discuss the dispute over the closure of the Liverpool Ferry services (the Press Association reports). But the strike called from midnight went ahead. P & O officials said some progress was made. The National Union of Seafarers is holding an emergency meeting this morning.

An attempt to settle the Chevron tanker drivers dispute failed in London yesterday (the Press Association reports). After two hours of talks the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service, headquarters, the management and union leaders left.

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Mr Arthur Scargill (left) and Mr Trevor Bell, respectively left-wing and moderate candidates in next week's NUM presidential election, in London yesterday for talks on pay with the coal board.

Coal board firm on 9.1% offer

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The politically fraught controversy over miners' pay is to continue after inconclusive negotiations yesterday in which the National Coal Board refused to improve on its pay rise offer of 9.1 per cent.

The board told leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) that no more money was available to increase the £9.7m package offered to miners two weeks ago, and unanimously rejected them.

Coal board executives now believe that a settlement in the pace-setting steel industry cannot be reached before the result of the NUM presidential election, and have therefore scheduled the next round of talks for December 8.

The miners go to the polls six days before this date to elect a successor to Mr Joseph Gormley, the moderate who has guided the NUM's fortunes over the past decade. There are four candidates, of whom

Mr Arthur Scargill, left-wing leader of the Yorkshire miners, is the firm favourite. Even senior NCB officials are privately conceding that the moderate challenge has failed.

Mr Gormley described yesterday's talks as "pretty negative". He is convinced that the offer would be accepted by the miners in a secret plebiscite ballot if the presidential election campaign were not in full swing.

He said: "Our lads, left and right, have said we are in there to negotiate. Not one of them has mentioned industrial action. I cannot read it, somehow, this year. But he is what I think. Maybe, I am simply getting older."

The retiring NUM president told the coal board that more money would have to be put on the table for a settlement to be reached. The union is also pressing for the proposed increases to be paid across the

board rather than as differential rises.

Mr Trevor Bell, one of the leading moderate candidates, chose yesterday to propose a new approach to wage agreements in the coal industry, moving away from annual confrontations to three-year agreements, with built-in, cost-of-living adjustments.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the owner of the company which beat a picket line at one of its factories with a helicopter swoop to remove some machinery, yesterday faced fresh opposition in the form of 16,000 miners (the Press Association reports).

Doncaster miners pledged their support to redundant workers by blocking all equipment arriving at local pits from Mining Supplies, in Doncaster. Mr Scargill's main factory, one of the coal board's large suppliers of pit equipment,

Trade union leaders yesterday adopted a cautious approach to the Government's latest proposals on labour law reform, issuing a bitter condemnation but backing off from the idea of a boycott of contacts with Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment.

The suggestion of a boycott was raised at the TUC General Council by Mr William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, but it was not taken up. The TUC's employment policy approach to the Government's latest proposals on labour law reform, issuing a bitter condemnation but backing off from the idea of a boycott of contacts with Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment.

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Science report

Fire and warfare 1.42 million years ago

By the Staff of "Nature"

A fascinating hint of interactive warfare between the two species of human ancestors living 1.42 million years ago is provided by the latest report of excavations at the hominid site in Chesowanja, near Lake Baringo in Kenya. The presence of remains from two individuals, the creatures known as robust australopithecines, technically Australopithecus boisei, suggests that the individuals concerned may have been like modern members of the Homo erectus species, thought to be more directly antecedent to Homo sapiens.

The Chesowanja site is relatively unexplored. The latest report of excavations at the site since 1978 is from a group of three palaeo-anthropologists and a physicist, Mr J. A. J. Gowlett (Oxford University), Mr J. W. K. Harris (University of Pittsburgh), Mr G. Leakey (Middlesex Hospital Medical School) and Dr D. Walton (McMaster University).

Primitive stone tools and animal bones have been recovered from the site, while specimens of burnt clay suggest that the place was frequented by people skilled in the use of fire.

More than forty pieces of burnt clay were recovered. Dr Walton reports that the clay samples he has examined are consistent with their formation in a possible fire. It is possible that similar pieces of burnt clay might have been formed after bush fires or even lightning strikes, the investigators believe that the other evidence at the site is consistent only with the deliberate use and controlled use of fire.

The authors say that their findings strengthen the belief that hominids were using and controlling fire 1.4 million years ago.

They also argue that the earliest fire users are likely to have been members of the species Homo erectus. The Chesowanja site is therefore likely to have been a camp site used by Homo erectus to which the carcasses of animals were brought for preparation and to cook. The presence of remains of two members of the other hominid species living at the same time suggests that they were dealt with just as if they were ordinary animals.

The tools found at the site are unusual in being very small. The authors consider that the form of the tools suggests that they are an advanced form, those found in association with much earlier hominids at the several sites now worked in the Olduvai Gorge in Kenya. Source: Nature, November 12 (vol 294, p125) 1981. © Nature-News Service 1981

TUC balks at boycott of Tebbit

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NEWS IN SUMMARY



Mr Christie arriving at Heathrow yesterday

Briton home from Saudi detention

Mr Stuart Christie, aged 48, the building owner who was held in Saudi Arabia for 14 months on a murder charge, flew back to London yesterday to a champagne welcome at his home in Stamford Brook, west London, and said: "It's marvelous to be safely home. I was glad I could convince them I was not guilty."

Mr Christie, who was managing director of Arabian Elder Ltd, had been held accused of stabbing to death Mr Paul Brown, his business partner. "They thought I was responsible because I admitted to seeing the last person to see him alive," he said at Heathrow airport. "They said: 'If you are not the murderer prove it.' I thought: 'Christie, you are 5ft 5in tall, but when you are going to be just 5ft without your head'."

Firms 'unaware of research'

Industrial firms should be more vigorous in ferreting around universities for inventions to exploit commercially, Dr James Gowans, FRS, secretary of the Medical Research Council, told Commons select committee yesterday. He said he was often surprised by industry's lack of awareness of medical research. (Our Science Editor writes).

Dr Gowans was one of three representatives from the Advisory Board for the Research Councils giving evidence to an inquiry into the difficulties in transferring genetic engineering discoveries from the laboratory into commercial development.

Teenager saves family in fire

Paul Melia, aged 18, unemployed, of Lockwood Road, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, climbed a drainpipe to rescue Mrs Jean Osocroft, aged 21, and her children, Tina, aged three, and David, 18 months, from their burning home in Haywood Close, Rotherham. He stood on the blazing roof of a ground floor bay window and passed the children to neighbours before helping Mrs Osocroft to safety.

Malvern head moves

Mr Martin Rogers, Head Master of Malvern College for the past 18 years, has been appointed Chief Master of King Edward's School, Birmingham, in succession to Mr Robson Fisher, aged 60, who is leaving at the end of the school year to take over as deputy secretary of the Head Masters' Conference. Mr Rogers, aged 50, was educated at Oundle School, Huntingdon, Cambridge, where he read natural sciences and history. Before going to Malvern, he was Master of the Queen's Scholars at Westminster School.

Dearer travel but more will benefit

British Rail fares rise by 9.5 per cent from Sunday but the age limit for half price children's fares will also be raised, from 14 to 16. BR says the increase, the first for a year and one of the lowest in recent times, will bring in an extra £70m a year. BR was able to hold down the increase because of an extra £23m subsidy paid under this year by the Government.

50p in the £ rates rise forecast

A rates increase of 50p in the pound is likely in Manchester next year if the Government cuts its block grant to the city by £14m. Mr Ross Prescott, the city's treasurer, told a joint meeting of the council's policy and finance committees, yesterday.

80 sheep killed

Eighty sheep were killed yesterday when a lorry carrying 300 to market overturned on the A59 near Blackburn, Lancashire. The driver escaped with slight injuries.

Seven guilty of smuggling tons of cannabis

Seven men were convicted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of their part in the multi-million pound "Operation Cyril" drug smuggling case.

They included Robert Mills, a bookmaker, who masterminded a plot to bring cannabis "by the ton" into a Cornish cove at Tolland Bay between 1975 and 1979. But an eighth defendant, Robert Howton, aged 33, salesman, of Camberwell, south London, was cleared.

Six other men have admitted their role in the smuggling team. All 13 will be sentenced later this week. The jury has taken more than two days to reach its verdicts, spending two nights secretly at a London house. The cannabis was brought from North Africa on board a converted radar-equipped fishing boat, Guiding Light. Mr Robert Harman, for the prosecution, said during the two-month trial: "It was drug-running on a huge scale. Three million pounds of the proceeds were paid into the Midland International Bank in Gracechurch Street, City, in under three years."

The account was in the name of Ambrose Vinales, a Gibraltar bank manager, who transferred the money to his native country where it was "laundered". Mr Harman said the English number one in the operation was Mills, who had not been visible, but as a bookmaker, had ideal cover for handling thousands of pounds.

Between 1977 and 1979 over £500,000 was paid into an account in Scream, south London.

The court heard that between 1975 and 1979 the trawler regularly picked up its illegal cargo from Morocco and sailed to Tolland Bay.

"It is the sort of place chosen by smugglers for centuries. It is reached by

various winding roads with a restricted view from the cliffs," Mr Harman said. The only buildings were a cottage and a beach café. Both were occupied and run by Rodrick Eagleton.

The cargo was brought ashore by rubber dinghies, loaded on to a Land Rover at the water's edge and hidden in an underground store.

"The cargo was not run or tobacco as once might have been the case, but cannabis by the ton." The smugglers combined the stealth and skills of traditional smugglers with twentieth-century banking and seafaring technology. "The profits must have run into many millions of pounds," Mr Harman said.

Ambrose Vinales, aged 51, admitted drawing the money which had been transferred to Gibraltar, but denied knowing it had anything to do with drugs. Mr Harman said Edward Victory, aged 57, a businessman, was said to be Mills's assistant.

Trevor Cole, aged 40, financial consultant of Ayr, south London, was convicted of supplying the drug along with William Moon, aged 41, roofer, of Canobie Road, Forest Hill, south-east London, and Dennis Madden, aged 29, builder, of Chestnut Avenue, Langley, Buckinghamshire. All denied the charge.

The seventh man, Thomas Lake, aged 37, unemployed, denied smuggling. The six who admitted their part before the trial began were: Malcolm Gardner, aged 34, of West End Road, Bitterne, Southampton; Terence Goodship, aged 41, of Eastcote Road, Welling, Kent; Reginald Jackson, aged 41, of Wafford Way, Hendon, north London; and Anthony Dugdale, aged 33, of Porchester, Hampshire. Another alleged gang member, Mr Ronald Taylor, still being sought, while James Jones, aged 53, was too ill to stand trial.



Dwarfs' debut: A litter of piglets named after Disney's seven dwarfs being shown by London Zoo staff yesterday. The piglets are from a strain developed in West Germany to grow only a foot tall.

Residents oppose fourth Archway inquiry

By a Staff Reporter

A proposal by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, that there should be a new inquiry into the Archway road-widening scheme in north London has been swiftly opposed by a group of residents.

Mr George Stern, of the Stop the Archway Motorway Plan group, told *The Times* that it would be a blunder for the ministry to hold a fourth inquiry into the scheme "when they have already wasted nearly £1m so far with nothing to show for it on three others".

Inquiries into the proposal to widen a stretch of just over a mile on the A1 from a starting point slightly north of the Archway bridge and heading north were held in 1973, 1976, and 1977.

Mr Howell proposed the new hearing in letters to Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, and to the planning

Papers' merger proposal angers journalists

From Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent, Birmingham

Shareholders arriving at yesterday's annual meeting of BPM Holdings, publishers of *The Birmingham Post* and *Evening Mail*, were lobbied by editorial staff protesting at management plans to integrate jobs on the two newspapers.

Management see it as a way of stemming losses on the morning paper, and permitting it to improve news coverage on the profitable evening.

Members of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), which represents 120 of the 240 journalists on the two papers, handed copies of a statement to shareholders.

It claimed that if the amalgamation went ahead, *The Birmingham Post* would lose its identity, and expressed the fear that it was the first step to phasing out a respected morning paper and breaking up a group of dedicated journalists.

£1-a-week farmer's son turned to theft

From Our Correspondent Harrogate

A farmer in the Yorkshire Dales paid his son aged 24 wages of £1 a week, a court in Ripon, North Yorkshire, heard yesterday.

John Michael Swales, the bachelor son, who works seven days a week, had to "grovel" for an extra £2 or £3 to go out and, it was said, that turned him into a thief. "It is simply ridiculous," Mr Dennis Carter, chairman of the bench, said.

Mr Swales, of Mansion Rouse Farm, Burnt Yates, Harrogate, admitted stealing hydraulic agricultural equipment worth £500 "possibly as a compensation for his difficulties," Mr Alan Pickard, for the defence, told the court.

Mr Pickard added: "His position is a difficult one, hardly credible in this day and age. It has been known for farmers to take advantage of their children but it is an old-fashioned idea where a grown man works on his parents' farm for only £1 a week".

Mr Swales was given a conditional discharge for three years and ordered to pay compensation of £160.

Mr Carter told him: "Apparently your father does not think much about you or he would have been here. You cannot expect to go straight and lead a decent life. Perhaps the blame is not so much on you as it is on your parents".

At his farm his father, Mr Leonard Swales, said: "Very few young chaps are as well off. He has a third share in our business and has a farm coming to him. Anything he wants he takes out of the business".

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Scarman on Brixton 1 / Criticisms of policing tempered with support for Metropolitan force



Flashpoint this April: Youths battle with police outside the Windsor Castle public house in Brixton (above) and later (below) firemen comb the smouldering ruins of the pub

Stance 'between society and a collapse of law and order'

By Lucy Hodges

In his report *The Brixton Disorders 10-12 April 1981* Lord Scarman tempers criticisms of general policing methods, for which he recommends some profound changes, with warm support for the way in which the Metropolitan Police handled the rioting. The report rejects many of the complaints made at the time against the police. It finds that the direction and policies of the force are not racist; that the police did not overreact to the disturbances and that their tactics in the streets during the trouble are to be praised.

It says that the police and personnel of the emergency services "stood between our society and a total collapse of law and order in the streets of an important part of the capital... Let us remember their many excellences even while we note and seek to remedy such defects as there may be".

Lord Scarman, whose terms of reference were "to inquire ungenially" into that weekend of Brixton disorders and to report with a power to make recommendations, also visited the West Midlands and Liverpool after the July riots but was empowered to inquire into them.

His report puts the Brixton riots firmly into the context of racial disadvantage faced by young blacks but says that the police have a critical part to play. "If they neglect consultation and cooperation with the local community, unrest is certain and riots become probable".

The report first analyses the decayed social conditions in Brixton; it notes that its non-white population is higher than the 36 per cent for the whole of the borough of Lambeth, and that in the area at the heart of the rioting last April the 19-21 age group of the population is now non-white. Borough social services expenditure in 1979/80 was the highest per capita in England and twice the London average. Ethnic minority unemployment was 25.4 per cent of the total unemployment at the Brixton employment office in May. None of these provides an excuse for disorder, the report says, however, to ignore complex political and social factors "is to put the nation at peril".

The rioting started on Friday evening, because young blacks "spontaneously" retaliated against police they mistakenly believed were mistreating a man they were assisting after he had been stabbed. It reignited an Saturday — with some signs of organization and outsider presence, Lord Scarman notes — because of an unwelcome conduct arrest by two young officers involved in the anti-mugging police operation code-named "Swamp 81".

In the months before the riots, serious crime in Brixton was increasing, and "street" crime formed a large part of it. Lord Scarman said that operation Swamp 81, which preceded the riots and was designed to catch robbers and muggers, was "a serious mistake", given the tension which existed between the police and the local community in the early months of this year. It should not have been continued with on the Saturday after the initial fighting on Friday.

He adds that it was unfortunate that the police named the operation Swamp 81, and criticizes Commander Leonard Adams and Commander Brian Fairbairn for an error of judgment in not seeing the need to consult locally before mounting such an operation.

"The proposition that consultation upon operations is inappropriate is too wide", he says. "The proposition that it interferes, or may undermine, independence of judgment is a non-sequitur; for consultation informs judgment: it does not preempt it".

The report says that many young people were spoiling for a fight at the time because of their frustrations and because they thought the Friday night incident, when a black youth who had been stabbed was picked up by police, was another instance of police harassment.

"Many of them were deceived by rumour into thinking that police callousness on the Friday had actually led to the death of the wounded man. The tinder for a major conflagration was there: the arrest outside the S and M car hire office was the spark which set it alight."

"There is no need to probe deeper for the immediate cause of the Saturday riot. I have heard no evidence to suggest that there was any prior organization or conspiracy. There was no plan, no 'Friday' or 'Saturday' police. But many young people were itching to have a go. The spirit of defiance and aggression was in them. Many observers noted their elation as events developed to the disadvantage of the police. They were enjoying themselves."

At the same time, the report thoroughly supports most of the police action in controlling the riots. It indicates the way in which Police Constable Morgan and others tried to help the stabbed youth on the Friday night by giving him first-aid and waiting for an ambulance to arrive.

It rejects the criticism made of them at the subsequent public inquiry. "The officers could properly and reasonably reach the view that it was better to await the ambulance. They had to exercise judgment in a difficult situation. They cannot be faulted in what they did; indeed, I believe they acted correctly."

The heavy police presence in Brixton on Saturday and Sunday was fully justified, contrary to what critics said, the report says. The police were right not to withdraw on the Saturday when they were asked to, and it was not a crucial error, as some had suggested, that the home office officers were not called into help quell the disturbances.

Lord Scarman strongly defends the police against allegations of racism. "The direction and policies of the Metropolitan Police are not racist. I totally and unequivocally reject the attack made upon the integrity and impartiality of the senior direction of the force."

"The criticisms lie elsewhere — in errors of judgment, in a lack of imagination and flexibility, but not in deliberate bias or prejudice. The allegation that the police are the oppressive arm of a racist state not only displays a complete ignorance of the constitutional role of police officers but calling the police: it is an injustice to the senior officers of the force."

The report is critical of some police behaviour during the disturbances, particularly of two young officers, Police Constables L. Cameron and L. Thornton, who stopped and searched a man for drugs in Atlantic Road. It was this incident which led to the very serious disorder on the Saturday.

While Lord Scarman says their action in searching the innocent driver was not unlawful, they acted in a tense situation "without the discretion and judgment which mature years might have brought".

He adds: "Perhaps they had become injured by their experience of the hostility which police action could arouse in Brixton to the point where they failed to recognize real danger signals or to strike the correct balance between enforcing the law and keeping the peace."

The report concludes that from the weight of evidence there were certain instances in which officers over-reacted during the riots and behaved aggressively, using

excessive force. Particularly worrying were allegations about the use of unlawful weapons.

The report criticizes the police for using dogs to control the crowd on the Friday and Saturday and for beating on their shields with their truncheons "aid shouting in a manner reminiscent of ancient warriors going into battle."

Lord Scarman says: "It was unfortunate, but it is to be remembered that the police were under heavy attack: they needed to preserve their spirits in the face of a ferociously hostile crowd. Such action, though understandable, was unworthy of a disciplined force."

"It was calculated to arouse fear and apprehension in those citizens, some of them no doubt perfectly peaceful, who hear it. Such behaviour, despite extenuating circumstances, must be stopped."

Lord Scarman rejects the argument that the police tried to trap the crowd during the riots and says that far from over-reacting to the disorders, the police were increasingly prepared and all-equipped to cope with them.

As the Saturday evening riot spread Commander Fairbairn of L district asked for a police helicopter to assist him in overseeing the movements of the crowds but "the helicopter could not be made available because of lack of crew", the report notes without further comment. Little later, in Effra parade the police had to contend with the "a new weapon, spinning plates" as well as the "hail of bricks, bottles, tiles, pieces of wood, milk crates, scaffold poles and petrol bombs".

"There is little doubt that the disorders revealed weaknesses in the capacity of the police to respond sufficiently firmly to the violence in the streets. On Saturday — the height of the disorders — the rioters had the run of Railton Road and Mayall Road and looting continued unchecked in the shopping centre of Brixton for some three hours before the police had assembled sufficient forces to regain the initiative and quell the disorders."

"It is no criticism of those officers who, under the most fierce attack, held the police lines at the Triangle and, later, near Effra Parade, to say that they were forced by the attack to adopt a defensive posture, to contain the crowds before they were sufficiently reinforced to disperse them."

"The build-up of officers was slow; it did not really achieve a sustained momentum until after 8 pm on Saturday, some two and a half hours after the serious disorder erupted. Other deficiencies in police equipment and preparedness rapidly became apparent. The protective shields and helmets, when they became available, proved inadequate; the helmets provided insufficient protection to the head; the foam padding at the rear of the shields themselves heavy and cumbersome — caught fire when petrol spilled over them."

"Officers untrained in the use of shields or in the command of men carrying them found themselves thrust into the front line. Officers' uniforms were also ignited by the flames from petrol bombs. Police vehicles were totally unprotected from missile-throwing mobs."

"There were difficulties in radio communication between officers deployed at the scene and police control, and between different units of officers on the ground: notably, it appears doubtful whether at the time the tactical advance by Commander Fairbairn and Commander Adams from opposite ends of Railton Road, either of the two commanders or Deputy Assistant Commissioner Walker were fully aware of

the desperate situation of Chief Superintendent Robinson near Effra Parade."

"Indeed, Commander Adams did not even know that Mr Robinson was in Railton Road near Effra Parade. None of the commanders seems sufficiently to have appreciated the extent to which in moving forward they were inevitably going to put Mr Robinson's safety (a serial is 24 officers) under even greater pressure than they already were."

"There also appear, from the evidence of Mr Butler, a Deputy Assistant Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade, to have been problems in the early stages of Saturday in establishing effective liaison between the police and the other emergency services."

"It has been suggested by some that after the experience of the disorders in Brixton on April 2, 1980, and the conclusions of the subsequent review, which you, Sir, initiated, of police arrangements for handling serious disorder, the Metropolitan Police should have

because of the limited resources they had available in the early part of the evening, they could not cope with both the disorder and the looting."

"The police commanders felt they had to give priority to the former. I am satisfied that they were right to do so. Any fault lay in an inability to muster adequate numbers of officers, properly trained and equipped, sufficiently quickly rather than in a failure of police will or of operational judgment."

Lord Scarman says that nothing can excuse the unlawful behaviour of the rioters. The failures of the police and the community leaders can neither justify nor excuse the disorders "for the terrifying lawlessness of the crowds".

He adds: "The conclusion which I have reached is that, save in one or two respects where the true criticism is that they failed to act in sufficient time or with sufficient force, the police at command level and on the streets acted wisely, coolly, and with commendable re-

straint (though there were some individual exceptions) in a testing, dangerous and alarming situation."

"It is a tribute to their restraint that no one was killed in the suppression of the disorders. Broadly, the police strategy and tactics in handling the disorders are to be commended, not criticized."

"Those who were privileged, as I was, to hear the evidence of a succession of Metropolitan Police officers (both senior and junior) and of representatives of the London Fire Brigade, the London Ambulance Service and the British Transport Police during the inquiry will have had many opportunities to marvel at and be thankful for the courage and dedication which was displayed by members of the police and emergency services in Brixton over that terrible weekend."

"They stood between our society and a total collapse of law and order in the streets of an important part of the capital. For that, they deserve, and must receive, the praise and thanks of all sections of our community."

"Before we pass judgment on the quality of our policing, let us remember their many excellences even while we note and seek to remedy such defects as there may be."

Lord Scarman concludes that the disturbances did, in fact, constitute a riot but that they were not premeditated.

"Though the evidence of leadership and of 'outside participation' is slight, it is persuasive, and has not been controverted. I have in mind the course of the Saturday: the particular incident of the woman with the American accent; the presence of the white man and black youth apparently directing operations in Railton Road after the bus incident; the terms offered by the rioters to the two councillors and Mr Morgan; and three further pieces of evidence to which I shall now refer."

"Though the evidence is too slight to amount to proof in a court of law, it indicates plainly enough not only that there was a degree of direction but also that, after the disorders had begun, some strangers participated in the attack upon the police, some leaders emerged and some used the disorders for the deliberate commission of criminal offences."

The three pieces of evidence suggesting outside involvement were evidence by the Vicar of St Jude's that he saw a "grimly determined" group of black men attack a pub and a newsagent's shop on the grounds that "the police had been harassing the black and homosexual communities and that they could stand it no longer"; a police constable who said many of the black rioters were strangers; and that a sinister contribution was made by strangers making and distributing petrol bombs.

"Indeed, it is possible, though the evidence is not sufficient to warrant a finding, that without the guidance and help of certain white people the young blacks, who were the great

majority of the rioting crowds, would not have used the bomb."

"If we leave it as an open question — clear and credible evidence was given to me in private session, by two witnesses who reside in streets adjacent to Railton Road, that they saw white men making, stacking and distributing petrol bombs, in the Railton Road-Leeson Road area on Saturday."

"There is no doubt from the evidence that the materials to make petrol bombs were readily available to the rioters, both white and black — bottles looted from shops and public houses, petrol siphoned from the tanks of commandeered vehicles, and wicks from rags and other materials to hand."

The Lambeth police are criticized for failing to achieve the degree of public approval and respect needed to carry out their functions, and for being inflexible. Together with community leaders, they are blamed for the failure in police-community relations between 1978 and 1981.

"The police must carry some responsibility for the outbreak of disorder", Lord Scarman says. "It accuses them of harassment and says that this, coupled with racial prejudice among junior officers on the streets of Brixton, gives credibility and substance to the arguments of police critics."

He also says that the police failed to adjust their policies and methods to meet the needs of a multi-racial society. "In my judgment, police attitudes and methods have not yet sufficiently responded to the problem of policing our multi-racial society."

"A gap still remains in this area between theory and practice; between the recognition of principle and its detailed application in an ethnically diverse community. This is not to be attributed, or lack of sincerity. The police, by and large, really do try."

But there remains in the policing system a certain lack of flexibility in their

approach; and, so long as that remains, it is a serious flaw."

The report says that behind some of the criticism of the police lies the power of gossip and rumour. "There must be a temptation for every young criminal black or white — stopped in the street or arrested in Brixton to allege misconduct by a police officer: indeed, the position may almost have been reached where not to do so is to endanger one's credibility in the eyes of one's friends."

"Moreover, the circumstances in which arrests are made in Brixton — where a 'hostile' crowd normally gathers rapidly at the scene on each occasion — are calculated to produce conflict, ending in accusation and counter-accusation."

"Having entered these cautions, however, I do not doubt that harassment does occur. Stop and search operations, in particular, require courteous and carefully controlled behaviour by the police to those stopped, which I am certain was sometimes lacking."

Lord Scarman says that the police rightly and understandably reply to such allegations by saying they must be tested through the complaints procedure. But many people, particularly ethnic minorities, do not have confidence in the impartiality or efficiency of the system.

"They regard the fact that the police investigate complaints against police officers as proof that the system is not impartial and are not persuaded that the independent scrutiny provided through the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Police Complaints Board is a sufficient safeguard."

"I do not doubt that a significant number of people have such little faith in the system that they do not bother to make formal complaints against the police even when they would be fully justified in doing so."

"I conclude that any system for considering complaints against the police which is subject to the range and weight of criticism I have heard of the present system in this inquiry must be unsatisfactory and ineffective."

"Unless and until there is a system for judging complaints against the police which commands the support of the public, there will be no way in which the atmosphere of distrust and suspicion between the police and the community in places like Brixton can be dispelled."

"There is no doubt that in the period under discussion serious crime in Brixton was increasing and that street crime formed a significant part of crime in the area. The submissions made to me on this point emphasize that statistics — or at least the analysis of statistics — is not necessarily an exact science and that crime statistics, like any other statistics, need handling with care."

"It may be that to describe the street crime situation in Brixton as 'tumultuous' was no indulgence in hyperbole. But the submissions do not explain away the practical impact nor the seriousness of the crime problem in L district and in Brixton."

Lord Scarman criticizes the Council for Community Relations in Lambeth and community leaders for the breakdown of relations between the police and the community. "It was not the police who abandoned the liaison committee, but the local leaders."

"The decision of the CCRL to withdraw from the committee in February 1979 was no doubt made in good faith, but in my view it was wrong. In effect the public body committed to furthering better relations between all sections of the community in Lambeth was thereby refusing to deal officially with an organization — (the police) which it itself saw as jeopardizing those very relations."

Lord Scarman also

criticizes the report of an inquiry set up by Lambeth Council into policing, which it says increased suspicion and particularly the police's sense that they were the constant subject of ill-considered and unbalanced criticism.

Lord Scarman devotes a chapter of his report to the social conditions in Brixton and includes short sections on Southern, Toxicity, Moss Side and the West Midlands. He says that, while there is evidence to suggest that the position of ethnic minorities has improved in inner cities, they suffer from the same deprivations as the "host community" though much more acutely.

"Their lives are led largely in the poorer and more deprived areas of our great cities. Unemployment and poor housing bear on them heavily; and the educational system has not adjusted itself satisfactorily to their needs. Their difficulties are intensified by the sense they have of a concealed discrimination against them, particularly in relation to housing."

"Some young blacks are driven by their despair into feeling that they are rejected by the society of which they rightly believe they are a part. They are aware that they would wish to enjoy the same opportunities and to accept the same risks as everyone else."

"But their experience leads them to believe that their opportunities are less and their risks are greater. Young black people feel neither socially nor economically secure."

"In addition they do not feel politically secure. Their sense of rejection is not satisfied by the level of black representation in our elective political institutions. Their sense of insecurity is not relieved by the liberty our law provides to those who march and demonstrate in favour of tougher immigration controls and 'segregation' of the blacks. Rightly or wrongly, young black people do not feel politically secure, any more than they feel economically or socially secure."

"The accumulation of these anxieties and frustrations and the limited opportunities of airing their grievances at national level in favour of tougher immigration controls and 'segregation' of the blacks. Rightly or wrongly, young black people do not feel politically secure, any more than they feel economically or socially secure."

"The recipe for a clash with the police is therefore ready-made and it takes little or nothing to persuade them that the police, representing an establishment which they see as insensitive to their plight, are their enemies."

None of these features can perhaps usefully be described as a cause of the disorders, either in Brixton or elsewhere. Indeed, there are, undoubtedly, parts of the country which are equally deprived where disorder did not occur. But taken together, they provide a set of social conditions which create a predisposition towards violent protest. Where deprivation and frustration exist on the scale to be found among the young black people of Brixton, the probability of disorder must, therefore, be strong. Moreover, many of them, it is obvious, believe with justification, that violence, though wrong, is a very effective means of protest: for by attracting the attention of the mass media of communication, they get their message across to the people as a whole."

The Brixton Disorders 10-12 April 1981, Report of an inquiry by the Lord Scarman, OBE, Command 847, HMSO, 2s.

After the battle: Firemen at the ruins of the Windsor Castle pub



After the battle: Firemen at the ruins of the Windsor Castle pub

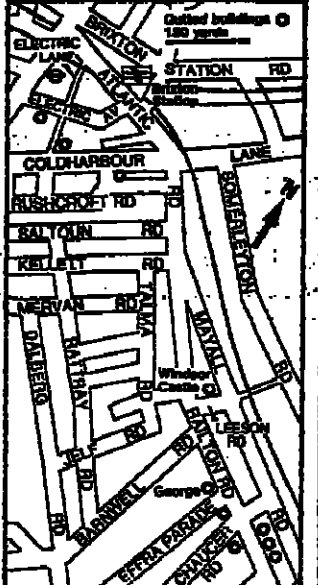
been better prepared for the disorders in Brixton than in a testing, dangerous and alarming situation."

"I make no finding on this. I simply point out that the scale of disorder was far in excess of anything until then experienced by the police in Britain and, in particular, that the Metropolitan Police faced in the petrol bomb a sinister and dangerous weapon, which had not previously been used on any substantial scale, if at all, in the United Kingdom outside Northern Ireland."

Lord Scarman rejects the criticism that the police pincer movement in Railton Road to quell the riot was misguided, and that the police should have left the scene of the disorder to the looters who were looting freely.

"Those who looted and damaged property in Brixton deserve the severest condemnation and punishment. The police could not have turned their backs on the mayhem in Railton and Mayall Roads, even if the crowd there had been prepared to let them."

"I am satisfied that any delay by the police in stopping the looting arose not from any reluctance to do so but from the fact that



The streets where trouble flared

PARLIAMENT November 25 1981

Whitelaw accepts theme of Scarman

COMMONS

The detailed recommendations on policy and policing arrangements contained in the report of Lord Scarman's inquiry into the disorders in Brixton in April, this year, were accepted by the Home Secretary, Mr. William Whitelaw, in a statement to the Commons.

Mr. Whitelaw, indicating that he accepted and endorsed this statement of philosophy, said it would be his responsibility and that of Mr. George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, to ensure that it was carried out.

The report rightly leads discussion about the concepts of "hard" and "soft" policing (he stated), and focuses on issues which reflect the real variety of police work. The duty of the police to apply the law firmly and sensitively without differing standards.

Lord Scarman emphasises that the constant and support of the community depend on good two-way communications between the police and the community. The national judgment of the police will be informed, and not undermined, by consultation with the community.

At the same time, the community has a duty to maintain discipline, and the police must respond to their needs. Without consultation of this kind, there will not be accountability, and the necessary respect for the law will be distorted.

Mr. Whitelaw said that Lord Scarman's report, published yesterday, had been a landmark in the history of the police. He described the report as "a masterpiece of clarity and common sense".

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discussions on the arrangements for consultation in London.

I accept the need for more effort to be put into training with a view to the police becoming a multi-racial society, and on the prevention and handling of disorder. We must concentrate on those now in the service as well as on recruits, especially in the area of supervision and management.

I accept that the procedure for handling complaints against the police must be substantially reformed if it is to command public confidence. I have already given this matter a great deal of consideration, and I shall bring forward proposals to the House as soon as I can.

The rest of Lord Scarman's report is concerned with racial disadvantage, the law in the field of public order, and social and economic conditions. All of these affect the problems of policing in a multi-racial inner-city environment.

The report emphasises that despite the efforts of successive Governments, the problems of inner-city areas remain. Lord Scarman's recommendations point to the need to seek ways in which better co-ordination and better value for money can be achieved.

That is this Government's purpose, through the Merseyside task force in particular. Equally, the law in the field of public order, and social and economic conditions, all of these affect the problems of policing in a multi-racial inner-city environment.

We shall need to pursue that purpose not only in relation to Lord Scarman's report, but also in reply to the valuable report of the Home Office on racial disadvantage.

The police have a right to look for action by society as a whole; and the Government accepts the responsibility, in which we must all share, to make our multi-racial society a better one.

Mr. Francis Pym, Leader of the House, is ready to provide time for a debate in which we can examine this important report more thoroughly than will be possible today.

The House, and the country, owe to Lord Scarman a considerable debt. I welcome the report and I thank him for it.

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put of party politics. To reject all or any of the proposals of his report would be to set back the cause of good community relations in a quite unacceptable way.

Mr. Whitelaw should give his firm and unequivocal support to the recommendations of the report in far less opaque language than that which we heard during his initial statement.

In particular, what does he propose about the banning of racist marches? Will he increase the length of police training? Will he institute a system of visits to police stations? Will he make it a misdemeanour for which police officers are normally dismissed?

The report must be debated in this House at the first opportunity and during that debate the Government must give its detailed response to the individual recommendations.

The Opposition will take part in that debate willing to accept and implement all the recommendations, and convinced that the only genuine long-range solution for what has happened lies in the attack mounted at the report on the conditions that brought despair and violence.

Mr. Whitelaw: If we indulge in quotations to justify a particular point of view and then excuse ourselves from whatever part of the House, from any of the recommendations, from any of Lord Scarman's findings, from any of his recommendations, we are not doing ourselves or the House any favours.

It would not have thought there was any opaque language in the statement. I accepted many of the recommendations immediately. I accepted that the power to stop and search is necessary to combat street crime, and that differing standards must not be applied in the application of the law. So in my reply I am fully in line with what Lord Scarman said.

Mr. John Tiley (Lambeth, Central, Lab): The people of Brixton developed great affection for and confidence in Lord Scarman and his report. It is not because of its findings, but because of its honesty.

Mr. Whitelaw: Yes, certainly. The report is a landmark in the history of the police. He described the report as "a masterpiece of clarity and common sense".

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and forthright recommendations. Can Mr. Whitelaw assure us that he will act with the same vigour and speed in translating those recommendations into law and practice?

Lord Scarman's proposals, for reasons he explains, are financial or economic recommendations. What response has the Government got? It has already fined Lambeth several million pounds.

Mr. Whitelaw: I can say "Yes" on the question of speedy action. I have already said in my statement that we will be consulting the Home Office on the recommendations.

The Minister of State is meeting some MPs this afternoon. I hope they will include Mr. Fraser. I have accepted other recommendations and will act as fast as I can in bringing them forward.

On the economic and social consequences, and many of the problems in the inner cities, it does not seem to me that there is any one simple solution. It is the policies of successive governments that have led to the problems.

Large sums have been given. In 1981-82 £200 million was given to Lambeth inner city partnership—a considerable allocation.

Mr. Edward Gardner (South Yorkshire, C): Whatever lessons may be in this case and what may be for the police and for others, will the Home Secretary make it clear that the police will be expected to apply different standards in different parts of the country and that they will be expected to apply the law in all parts of the country fairly, impartially and above all, effectively?

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before the Government takes action? Mr. Whitelaw: If Mr. Tiley says that he is regarding difficulties such as unemployment, which is a factor, as excuses for violence, that is the implication of what he said.

Lord Scarman said at a press conference, and I agree with him, that it is not only a question of resources but also a change of attitudes. That is also important.

Mr. Richard Cawshaw (Liverpool, Labour, SDP): Whatever social conditions are within a democratic society, no one is justified in rioting. While in Brixton there was a breakdown between police and the black community, in Liverpool there has been a breakdown with both the black and white community.

If the Government thinks it can buy its way out of these disorders in Liverpool, what development is there in the development of the police and the black community?

Mr. Whitelaw: I would agree with Mr. Cawshaw about the problems that occurred in Liverpool, and his diagnosis is equally agreed with him. I am glad he said it and perhaps he might say it to Labour MPs that we will not be buying our way out of these problems.

Some Labour MPs pretend we can. We cannot do that way; that is why I believe police-community relations are of such enormous importance.

Mr. Kidron (Griffiths) (Bury St Edmunds, C): It is wrong to ask the police to handle these problems. The Metropolitan Police in general come out of Lord Scarman's report much better than most of the other forces. I had expected more indeed.

Will Mr. Whitelaw include in the proposals for additional training for the police service, further training in particular for their senior officers, for their chief officers? The Police Federation—

with which I have a connection—accepts the need for more training in the investigation of complaints against police, provided that the civil rights of policemen are safeguarded.

Will the Government to all concerned, particularly in London, Lord Scarman's judgment that the criticisms of the SPG are not because of its findings, but because of its honesty?

Mr. Whitelaw: The Metropolitan Police, like everyone else, has some lessons to learn from what Lord Scarman said. They have come out of it what they have done and I endorse that. If they are to work with the community, they must learn from it.

Refusal to take part in consultations is frequently not by the police but by those who work in the community.

We are certainly dealing with a situation which is a special case. It is not an independent element. It is not a dividing line. It is not a precedent. It is a case. On the SPG, I endorse that.

Mr. Sydney Bidwell (Bellingham, Southall, Lab): Will Mr. Whitelaw accept that the problems in the inner cities are a result of mass unemployment? We have always dreaded, in race relations, the things which will be remedied much more difficult.

Mr. Whitelaw: No doubt all those in the media will have noted that particular point of Lord Scarman's report. I thought it my duty on behalf of the House to write yesterday to the BBC chairman to call attention to these recommendations.

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Hattersley: Labour accepts recommendations

When we get out of this, as we all hope, we will be able to move in a different climate.

The police have been third at work in my mind. Lord Scarman said there is no high crime rate in Southall. I would like people to take note of that.

Mr. Whitelaw: I welcome what he said about the police in his area and the efforts they are making. Of course I accept high unemployment is a factor, but in many areas there has been high unemployment for a long time. It is not a new factor.

Mr. David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles): Does he accept that the report of Lord Scarman came to us at that urgent time when it was so necessary to have a new factor?

Is Mr. Whitelaw able, on behalf of all Government departments, and not just the Home Office, to undertake that this lesson will be heeded in every single department?

There are many recommendations on community policing and the law will be able to expand on later as accepted as Government policy for the future.

Mr. Whitelaw did not mention the particular points of the report. Does he accept that?

On racial disadvantage, Lord Scarman mentioned the importance of the Police Training Committee on Home Affairs. I have promised that we will give a collective Government response to that as soon as we can.

It was right to delay our response to hear what Lord Scarman said. I have accepted that. I have accepted that. I have accepted that.

On banning racist marches, I have promised that, after Scarman's report, we will have a review on public order which I have kept back.

I have not been criticised in recent months for not banning racist marches. I have been criticised for not banning racist marches. I have been criticised for not banning racist marches.

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SPG take to the boats

Officers of the Special Patrol Group practising yesterday for a 22-mile sponsored row along the Thames on Saturday to raise money for the family of Mr. Kenneth Howarth, the murdered police explosives officer. The officers, from Caledonian Road police station, north London, admit to being landlubbers. They have organized themselves into four crews, each of which will row one stage of the route between Greenwich and Barnes Bridge.

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Jurors ill after seeing photographs of body

A murder trial at the Central Criminal Court was temporarily halted yesterday when three jurors felt unwell while looking at photographs of a dismembered body.

Mr. Justice Mansfield sent the jury to their room after one of their number, a young woman, felt ill. Two others were later said to be unwell.

The jury of six women and six men were been studying police photographs of Mr. Donald Ryan, aged 49, whose body was allegedly cut up in a flat at Camberwell, south London, on November 8 last year. Mr. Ryan, QC, for the prosecution had described the case as "appalling and horrifying".

He told the jury that Mr. Ryan was still alive when his killers began cutting up his body with a hand saw, electric carving knife and a machete.

Mr. Ryan's severed head was placed in a refrigerator at the flat, the torso left on waste ground nearby, and that other parts of the body were dumped elsewhere in the neighbourhood.

The defendants, from south London, all deny murdering and conspiring to rob Mr. Ryan. They are: Shirley Brindle, aged 35, and Michael Ward, aged 28, both of Collyer Avenue, Camberwell, south London, on November 8 last year. Mr. Ryan, QC, for the prosecution had described the case as "appalling and horrifying".

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6,000 mile main servicing 'a thing of the past'

MOTORISTS CHEER AS SERVICING COSTS GO DOWN

By our MOTORING Correspondent

ALL OVER the country, Morris Ital drivers are celebrating the demise of 6,000 mile main servicing. Now that 12,000 mile main servicing is the order of the day for all manual transmission models in this new range of cars, owners are rejoicing while non-owners grumble.

Reports have been received of proud new owners peering gloatingly over the garden fence as their neighbours mournfully trudge off towards their cars to take them in for twice the number of main services.

The Morris Ital was the first car in the BL range to drop the 6,000 mile oil change. The engine oil now only needs to be changed at 12,000 miles or 12 months, thanks to improved oil filtration.

'Doubling the Intervals'

Longer-life giant electrode spark plugs are fitted to all Ital engines, doubling the intervals between setting and cleaning. Self-cleaning sliding contact points in the distributor limit corrosion and need replacement after 24,000 miles instead of the customary 12,000 miles.

A major contributor to reduced servicing costs is the light-emitting diode equipment that helps mechanics set the timing in record-quick time with unsurpassed accuracy. A full service now takes a third of the usual time, cutting labour costs to a minimum.

Already, competitive car manufacturers are said to be eyeing these advances with mixed emotions of envy and interest. But whatever plans they may have up their sleeves, the new Morris Ital—with twice the stretch of road between services—is in Morris showrooms right now.

Britain develops new paint system

Europeans go green

A NEW metallic paint process means that the new Morris Ital will be one of the best finished cars on the road. On all metallic colours, five coats of paint are bonded to each car, followed by two coats of clear lacquer. The result is not just a deeper colour, but a car completely proofed against the elements.

'UNDERSEALED'

"Skin-deep beauty?" added a paint-shop spokesman. "Not a bit of it! Every car is fully undersealed to protect it against abrasion and corrosion, primed, sealed, and coated with stove-baked layers of paint.

Even the doors, body sills, and cross-members are injected with non-setting weather-proof long-life wax protection!"

'HAND FINISH'

Moving round the paint shop we noticed that once

the sophisticated painting machines had finished their work, each car was inspected and finished by hand.

We asked one of the men how much paint went on each car. "Four gallons, at the very least."

he replied. We have a saying here: 1.7 litres underneath, 2.5 litres over the top. No wonder some of our European competitors are turning 40 shades of green!"

Ital shoots high in popularity polls

By our PUBLIC OPINION Correspondent

Now one of Britain's top-selling cars

WHILE the Morris Ital has only just celebrated its first birthday, figures released after nine months of sales this year indicate that this new car has rapidly won itself a place in the hearts of British motorists.

WITH sales over 43,000 to the end of September, the Ital is now one of Britain's top-selling cars.

Asked to comment, Morris spokesman said: "This is only the start of the good news. With the improvements we've introduced for 1982 the only way to go is up..."

He drew attention to the bright new tweed seats and new side stripes for the HL models, and matt black front and rear bumpers which give all Ital in the range a sportier look.

BACKACHE ON DECREASE SAYS BRITISH DOCTOR

Fewer and fewer patients are expected in doctors' waiting rooms this year complaining of "front seat driver's cramp".

'Car insurance costs take a nose-dive'

CITY EDITOR REPORTS

IT'S GOOD news for Morris Ital purchasers: compared with other cars in its class, insurance costs are considerably less.

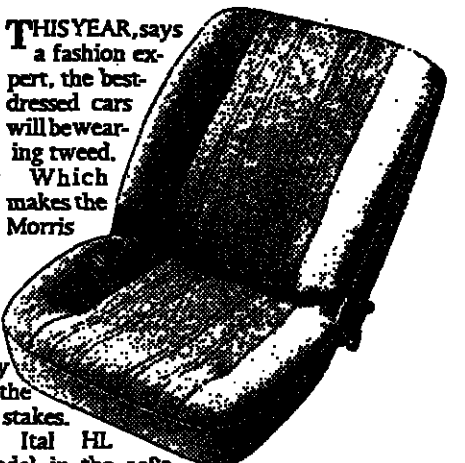
For example, while the Ital 1.3 is categorised in insurance group 2, the Escort is right up in

group 3 or even 4. Even the smaller Renault 515 demands a heavier insurance premium than the 1.3 Ital.

insurance a year with a 60% no-claims bonus. Driving an Escort 1.6 the same driver would be asked for an annual premium of £149, a penalty of £50.

"Frankly," a 1.7 Ital driver commented, "I can't under-

At least there's one page in this paper crammed with good news.



THIS YEAR, says a fashion expert, the best-dressed cars will be wearing tweed. Which makes the Morris

Ital an early winner in the fashion stakes. The Ital HL model in the 1982 range will come with textured tweed seat facings, for brighter and softer interiors. The fabrics come in three shades: Savannah, Paprika and Black. Example A fashion spokesman for Morris explained: "Even the French will have to look to their laurels when they survey the interior of the Ital. The day of the boring car interior will soon be over when more companies follow the example of the Ital. Brightness and softness is 'in'... drabness is definitely 'out'."

In the HL5 model, the seat material is ribbed and plain knit-backed velour for even more comfort and luxury. Door panels are cloth trimmed with a top vinyl roll, as are the headrests and seat backs. The rear seat in the saloon has a central foldaway armrest in matching fabric.

LATE NEWS

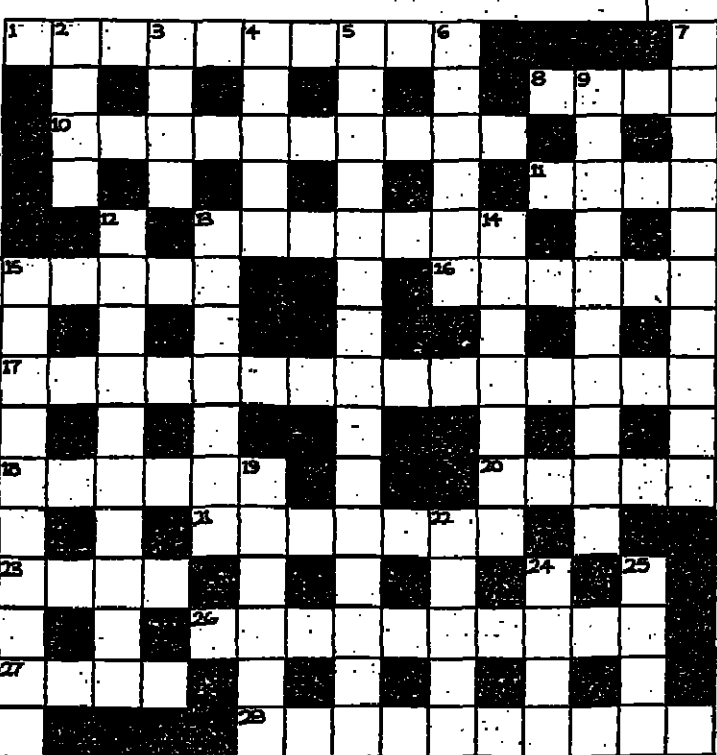
FORD PRICES GO UP AGAIN!

The Ford Motor Company announce price increases of up to 4% effective from November 10th 1981.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Chestnut punch gets the Ital going! (10)
- 8 Let go—no charge (4)



- 18 Confused stride leads to the worst possible straits (6)
- 20 Knobs and rocks (5)
- 21 Lipped and said goodbye? Anti-freeze will do it (4, 3)
- 23 Eden's gardener (4)
- 26 It's put into the Ital at springtime in Cowley (10)
- 27 Pass this river to get your driving license (4)
- 28 Confused master takes bewildered step: he needs these! (6, 4)

DOWN

- 2 Grease paints (1)
- 3 Herb is a wise man (4)
- 4 Part of clutch is confused with part of a flower (5)
- 5 Its play stops driving rain (10, 5)
- 6 Courses for the driver go underground, it's said (6)
- 7 Destroyed our ancestors, we hear, to get the planes (10)
- 9 He's dedicated to a smooth ride for every car (10)
- 12 TV series gives Ital driver four choices (10)
- 13 Dealer in stocks? (7)
- 14 A horn—or a mound (7)
- 15 The SDP—essential for all drivers (5, 5)
- 19 Thus Mr. Muddle plays guitar (6)
- 22 They carry arms to the front (5)
- 24 Laminate made by stars (4)
- 25 A bargain like the Ital—or action by its upholsterer (4)

WEATHER



Even on a day like this, Ital's body seam sealing, wax injection and underbody coating will keep rust at bay, whilst even the fiercest rainstorms will fail to generate the new paint finish on every Ital.

LIGHTING-UP TIMES When to switch on your Ital Quartz Halogen headlights.

stand it. After all, the Ital is faster on the road than the Mercedes 200, the Saab 900 GLS, the Talbot Solara 1.65X, yet it costs a darn sight less to insure. The insurance companies must have made a mis-

take somewhere along the line. "But I'm not complaining," he was quick to add as he tucked his cheque book back into his pocket.

A doctor said: "If only all car seats were designed like those in the Morris Ital, more British drivers would be able to stand up straight and face the world."

The Morris Ital seats have been designed around the principle that there's no such thing as the average body: the driving

seat can be adjusted to two-hundred-and-sixty-six positions so that each individual driver can find the perfect position to give his back the support it needs right down to the base of the spine.

As a result, even long journeys won't become a pain in the neck.

Britain overtakes Germany and Sweden

Staff Reporter

IN A SERIES of acceleration tests by the AA the new Morris Ital 1.7 HL got a great view of the Mercedes 200 and the Saab 900 GLS—in its rear view mirror!

engines are astonishingly silent. At tickover, the engine is almost inaudible.

Top of the charts The performance figures look even better when set against its fuel economy: in the case of the Ital 1.7 HL, 40 mpg at 56 mph.*

Top of the performance charts is the Ital 2.0 automatic, where its 0-60 acceleration of 12.3** seconds and top speed of over 100 mph*** contrasts with economy figures that would put many a 1600cc manual car to shame. On average, the Ital is the most economical 2.0-litre car available in the UK.

Which is particularly bad news for anyone who has just bought a Mercedes or Saab. And particularly good news for everyone who delayed his decision until the arrival of the 1982 range of high performance Morris Itals!

Morris announce stay-low prices for NEW Ital range

"We're determined to maintain the best value on the road," a Morris spokesman said while introducing the new range of Morris Itals. "Rumour has it that other companies plan big increases any day now, but not us."

Prices for the new range are as follows:
ITAL 1.3L£24199
ITAL 1.7L£24446
ITAL 1.3HL£24499
ITAL 1.7HL£24745
ITAL 1.7HLS£25199
ITAL 2.0HLS£25300
ITAL 1.3L Est.£24686
ITAL 1.7L Est.£24899
ITAL 1.7HLS Est.£25199
ITAL 2.0HLS Est.£26200

Please send me some more good news about the Morris Ital.

(I WOULDN'T MIND THE SOLUTION TO THE CROSSWORD AT THE SAME TIME!)

Name _____ Address _____
City _____
Send to: Ital Information Services, Department T1, PO Box 4, Oxford OX4 2PP. For Fleet Enquiries, phone: 021 778 4484.

A QUALITY PRODUCT WITH SUPERCOVER FROM MORRIS

*Government fuel figures mpg (L/100km). Ital 1.3 manual, urban 51.7 (8.9), 56mpg (45.0) (8.3); 75mpg (34.0) (8.3); 1.7 manual urban 30.0 (8.4), 58mpg (40.1) (7.1); 75mpg (36.1) (8.0); 2.0HL automatic, urban 30.4 (8.3); 56mpg (40.0) (7.1); 75mpg (30.3) (8.3). **Performance figures 'What Car?'. ***Manufacturers data. *Source of insurance figures, leading car insurance broker. **Source SMMT. **Official AA observed 0-60mph acceleration tests. All prices correct at time of going to press. Delivery and number plates extra.

Israel may seek change in terms for Sinai force

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Nov 25

Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, were both reported to have told separate private meetings today that Israel will reject European participation in the Sinai peace-keeping force under the terms laid down this week.

Earlier, Mr Abba Eban, the opposition Labour spokesman on foreign affairs, said in an interview with *The Times* that there was "a spontaneous consensus" throughout Israel that the participation of troops from Britain, France, Italy, and Holland should not be accepted without a change in the conditions published on Monday.

Mr Eban added that, although the conditions were issued in the form of a four-power document, there was an impression in Israel that "it was a central British responsibility, both because Britain has the chairmanship of the EEC and because we understand that most of the negotiation hinged upon Britain."

Referring to the decision of the four governments to add separate, similar statements to their basic conditions for joining the force, Mr Shamir said:

"That was gratuitous because the peacekeeping function is a limited function. There is no more reason to go on talking about the Palestinians and the PLO than there is to start a discussion about Nicaragua and Cuba. What the hell has it got to do with it?"

The reports of remarks made by Mr Begin to the American Ambassador in Israel and by Mr Shamir to a group of five visiting American Congressmen have reinforced the conviction that the Israeli Cabinet will vote to veto European participation when it meets on Sunday.

New Zealand will join

From Our Correspondent, Wellington, Nov 25

New Zealand is to link with Australia in a joint contribution to the Sinai peace-keeping force, Mr Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister, announced today. They would provide a common air unit operated with helicopters.

Mr Muldoon gave no hint of the size of the force but indicated the Australians

when it meets on Sunday. The Congressmen, quoted Mr Shamir as having informed them that Israel would stand by its commitment to evacuate the Sinai next April, even if the peace-keeping force eventually consisted of only American troops.

Much of the Israeli anger at the terms laid down in the various statements accompanying the European offer, directed at the person of Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, who was individually singled out for criticism by Mr Begin last night.

In response to reports that the British Minister had stated his unwillingness to consider the conditions that the four EEC nations had put on their participation, Mr Begin said pointedly that "Carrington" should worry about the security of Britain and peace in Ireland, while he would worry about peace in the Middle East.

A similar reference to the British Government's widely publicized troubles in Northern Ireland was made by Mr Eban, who said: "There is a feeling in Israel that a country like Britain faced with a terrorist problem ought to be more sensitive to other people's terrorist problems."

Mr Eban added: "There is something which grates upon Israel, the never the British Foreign Secretary's persona appears on television."

In anticipation of the Cabinet's expected veto on European participation, Mr Eban said that the Israeli Government should first make a further diplomatic effort, via the Americans, to persuade the EEC countries to alter the conditions they have laid down.



Begin asks university for pledge

From Moshe brilliant Tel Aviv, Nov 25

Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, said today that Bir Zeit University, closed earlier this month by the West Bank military government, will be allowed to reopen if its president promises to restrain students from throwing stones, incendiary bombs and hand grenades at Arabs and Jews.

"Students are for study, not for murder," Mr Begin told the Knesset in Jerusalem. He said that if the students continue criminal acts, the university, the largest in the West Bank, will remain closed.

Dr Gabi Baramki, acting president of the university, replied later: "I can provide undertakings concerning what goes on inside the college walls, but what happens outside is beyond my control. No university president can provide such guarantees."

Mr Begin's statement was in reply to opposition criticism of the military government's repressive measures.

Arab summit collapses over Saudi Middle East plan

From Godfrey Morrison, Fez, Morocco, Nov 25

The Arab League summit meeting, here, scheduled to last three days, collapsed after only five-and-a-half hours tonight, broken on the Arab world's deep disagreement on the Saudi Arabian formula for Middle East peace.

King Hassan of Morocco, the host, announced that the summit had been "suspended" and that a further meeting would be held here at a date which has not been announced.

This would be prepared by a foreign ministers' meeting, for which dates have also not been announced.

Observers here said this unprecedented curtailment of an Arab League summit came as a severe blow not only to the Arab world but also to the Arab League's reputation for unity, but what happens outside is beyond my control. No university president can provide such guarantees.

Mr Begin's statement was in reply to opposition criticism of the military government's repressive measures.

gates from some hard-line states are saying that the Saudis did not adequately prepare the ground for their plan, that consultations with other Arab states were not sufficiently thorough.

Elsewhere the Fez diplomatic debacle will no doubt be welcomed, not only by Israel for whom almost any Arab embarrassment is good news, but in Egypt where the failure of the Fez plan will be seen by President Mubarak's government as providing further justification for pursuing the Camp David process.

The Egyptians are frequently accused of having abandoned the Arab cause to which Cairo spokesmen have often replied in effect: "Which Arab cause?" Tonight's stark revelation of the divisions in the Arab world will give this line of argument added force.

Among the hard-liners, such as Libya, Iraq, and Syria, tonight's dramatic events are taken as a victory for what they see as their uncompromising, and, in their determination not to allow

their fellow Arabs to give away the Palestinians' last really powerful bargaining counter with Israel: recognition.

Even before the meeting began, President Hafez al-Assad of Syria dealt a serious blow to the prospects of Saudi Arabia's peace plan when he decided at the last

His absence provided the main interest for observers. King Hassan of Morocco opened the summit at his royal palace in a sumptuous setting which contrasted sharply with the conference's increasingly bleak prospects of advancing the cause of Arab unity.

A foreign ministers' meeting, presiding over the summit, failed to agree on the eight-point Fez plan, and few delegates expressed much optimism that the summit could break the deadlock between Arab moderates and hard-liners.

The root of the Arab world's problem with the Fez plan is not simply that it contains a veiled offer of recognition to Israel, but also because it is of Saudi origin.

Change of heart in Pretoria South Africa lends Zimbabwe engines

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Nov 25

In a sharp break with precedent, a Zimbabwe Cabinet minister today confirmed that South Africa had loaned 26 locomotives for use on the railway system joining the two countries, and thanked Pretoria for assistance with transport difficulties.

The speech, by Mr Josiah Chinamano, the Minister of Transport, to a seminar here marks a significant departure from recent government statements of South Africa and appears to give substance to speculation that a new tone of pragmatism has entered relations between the two countries.

One of the reasons often cited by local sources for the antagonism that has characterized relations since the beginning of the year was the withdrawal by the South African authorities of 25 locomotives on loan to Zimbabwe. This added to transport problems at a time of increasing import/export demand.

The cost in lost exports is estimated to be running currently at about £4m a week.

The fact that South Africa has agreed to the return of these locomotives is taken by independent sources here as a sign that Western powers, such as the United States, have indicated to Pretoria that they are displeased with attempts to undermine the economies of the frontline states.

South Africa is known to have offered transport assistance some months ago, but only if Zimbabwe would agree to talks at ministerial level. Salisbury rejected the offer on the grounds that it would be a humiliation to accept.

A South African Government spokesman confirmed last week that talks between senior civil servants from both countries had opened late last month "with the specific authorization and at the request of the South African Government."

It became known soon afterwards that the South African negotiators had agreed to release six locomotives to Zambia and 20 to Botswana for use on the line, which connects those two countries with South Africa and Zimbabwe. Another 10 locomotives were under discussion, the subject of further discussions.

Announcing that an agreement had been reached, Mr Chinamano said today that Zimbabwe had received "considerable help" from its neighbours. Twelve locomotives were on hire from Mozambique, four had been offered by Malawi, and South Africa was providing 26, he said.

South Africa is frequently invoked by African governments as a source of assistance seeking to exploit the majority why the expectations of independence have not yet been met.

While Western sources believe that South Africa has been wielding its economic power in an attempt to influence government policy here, they are also concerned that undue emphasis has been placed on efforts by Pretoria to destabilize Zimbabwe and other frontline states.

Authoritative sources have been saying for some time that South Africa has been more co-operative in a dispute over power interferences have acknowledged.

FAO budget increased

Rome, Nov 25. — A controversial rise in the biennial budget of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization was approved today by the assembly of member states.

The rise, from \$278m (£146m) in 1980-1981 to \$368m in 1982-1983, won support from 110 countries at the FAO conference here, but five voted against and nine abstained.

Against the vote of the United States, Britain, West Germany, Japan and Switzerland. "The fight against hunger will not be won simply by increasing administrative

House of Lords

Claim after trial an abuse of process

Hunter v Chief Constable of the West Midlands Police and Others. Before Lord Diplock, Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Roskill and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook. [Speeches delivered November 19].

The House of Lords held that it would be an abuse of the process of the High Court to permit a man serving a life sentence for murder to bring a civil action for damages for assault when there had already been a final decision against the plaintiff by a criminal court of competent jurisdiction on the same issue of assault.

Their Lordships dismissed an interlocutory appeal by Robert Gerard Hunter, serving a sentence of life imprisonment, from the Court of Appeal, where the Rules of the Rolls, Lord Justice Goff, who directed on issue estoppel, said: "The House of Lords has allowed appeals by the Chief Constable of the West Midlands and Lancashire from Mr Justice Canby. The judge has refused applications to strike out as an abuse of the process of the court under Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Court of Appeal. The court's inherent jurisdiction statements of claim issued by six convicted persons in civil actions for damages for assault by the police."

The proceedings arose out of the bombing of the Birmingham public house on November 22, 1974, when 21 people were killed and 161 injured. Hunter, and some other appellants, claimed the same night on route to Bellaville. Between their first appearance in court and remand on November 25 and their second appearance on November 27, it was apparent that all, including Hunter, had sustained severe and painful facial injuries.

In June 1975, the trial of the six men for murder took place jointly before Mr Justice Canby and a jury. The principal evidence against each consisted of confessions made to the police either in writing or, in Hunter's case, orally.

At the trial objection was taken to the admission in evidence of the men's statements, on the ground that they had been induced by police violence and threats.

After an eight day "trial within a trial" (voir dire) by the judge in the absence of the jury, Mr Justice Canby ruled that each of the confessions was admissible.

The trial continued with the jury present, when the six repeated the allegations as to physical violence and police threats as relevant to the weight to be attached to the confessions. Mr Justice Canby, in his summing up gave the jury a firm direction that if they inclined to the view that the account by any of the six as to the circumstances in which his confession was obtained might be true, they should reject the confession as worthless and acquit the defendant. Since the other evidence against each of them did no more than raise suspicion and was insufficient to satisfy the burden

of proof beyond reasonable doubt that they were guilty of murder.

The jury convicted all six men on 21 counts of murder, and the judge sentenced them to life imprisonment. The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) dismissed their appeals on March 30, 1976.

In June 1976 14 prison officers from Walsall Green Prison were acquitted before Mr Justice Canby and a jury on charges of assisting the six convicted men. In November 1977, each of the six men issued writs followed by statements of claim delivered in January 1978 in civil actions against the Chief Constables of the West Midlands and Lancashire claiming damages for assault, the same assaults that had been the subject of the criminal trial.

The judge dismissed the statements of claim struck out. The judge's decision was upheld by the Court of Appeal, where the Rules of the Rolls, Lord Justice Goff, who directed on issue estoppel, said: "The House of Lords has allowed appeals by the Chief Constable of the West Midlands and Lancashire from Mr Justice Canby. The judge has refused applications to strike out as an abuse of the process of the court under Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Court of Appeal. The court's inherent jurisdiction statements of claim issued by six convicted persons in civil actions for damages for assault by the police."

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Law Report November 26 1981

Whether unused name can be protected

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The plaintiffs were My Kinda Bones Ltd, My Kinda Town Ltd, and My Kinda Rib Shack Ltd. The defendants were Dr Pepper's Stove Co Ltd and Mr Heinz Beran.

Mr Peter Prescott for the plaintiffs, Mr Geoffrey Floyd for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE SLADE said that the defendants sought to have the plaintiff's statement of claim struck out as disclosing no reasonable cause of action, and as being frivolous, vexatious and an abuse of process.

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NZ voters are disenchanted with all parties

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington, Nov 25

New Zealand goes to the polls in a general election on Saturday and the mood of the country suggests that it will be glad when it is over. The campaign has failed to generate the usual political enthusiasm.

If the electorate appears unmoved, the reason may have less to do with apathy than with a disenchantment with the contending parties. With opinion polls showing as much as 20 per cent of the voters either undecided or unwilling to declare themselves, prediction is hazardous.

Those same polls have had Mr Robert Muldoon's ruling National Party in front though its main opposition, the Labour Party, appears to be closing the gap.

The National Party looks safe enough on paper with a 10-seat majority over Labour in the 52-member Parliament. However, a 1 per cent swing in six electorates could turn it out of office.

Complicating the picture further will be the impact of the Social Credit League campaigning in all 92 constituencies on a policy of monetary reform. It held two seats in the old Parliament and under the leadership of the personable Bruce Beetham is confident of improving its position to hold the balance of power.

This possibility is being widely canvassed. National Party seats, particularly in some rural areas, look more vulnerable to Social Credit than to Labour.

Mr Wallace Rowling, the Labour leader, is fighting for his political survival. He needs to lead his party to victory to secure his own position which was seriously undermined a year ago by a crisis within the parliament. Mr Rowling has been working hard from the platform to convey an image of strength and resolution. Ironically, the usually bristling Mr Muldoon has been low key though this week has seen the reappearance of something of his old aggressive style.

The Prime Minister is still the wily campaigner, having channelled debate toward future development and away

from an examination of the Government's performance. After two successive three-year terms of National Party Government there is little evidence of Muldoon, the economic miracle worker as he was once promoted by his party.

Unemployment at 5 per cent of the work force is the overriding worry of the electorate according to the polls. Inflation is 15 per cent. Growth is practically nil and the current overseas deficit as of June was £725m.

The Government puts the lion's share of the blame for present difficulties down to the oil shock. The cost of imported fuel has jumped from £500m in 1978 to a projected £1,155m this year, the 20 per cent of total export earnings.

The Labour promise with the broadest appeal is an undertaking to cut taxes. Mr Muldoon has been under considerable pressure to himself from elements within his own party to restructure the tax system to afford relief for income earners. The Government has set up a committee which will report next year on taxation reform.

Meanwhile, Labour offers a £80m tax reduction, much of it to the benefit of the family man but not all of it forthcoming immediately. It would be financed substantially by a 6 per cent surcharge on the purchase of foreign exchange, a device meant to stimulate domestic activity. The levy would yield about £520m on present figures.

Nothing in the Labour manifesto suggests that a Rowling Government would undertake radical departures from the mixed economy which the present Administration also favours. Nor would a change of government heralding alterations in foreign policy. Foreign relations have barely earned a mention on the hustings.

Both the National and Labour parties are committed to Anzias, the defence partnership with Australia and the United States, though Labour under constituency pressure would oppose the presence of nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed United States warships in New Zealand ports.

The present state of parties in National 50, Labour 40, Social Credit 2.

Turkey is warned over EEC assistance

By David Cross

The British government, in its role as current president of the EEC Council of Ministers, has issued a veiled warning to the military regime in Turkey that its recent behaviour may lead to the cutting off of economic aid from the Community.

During a meeting with Mr Rahmi Gönülak, the Turkish Ambassador in London earlier this week, Mr Humphrey Atkins, the Lord Privy Seal, emphasised the widespread concern among members of the European Parliament about the recent jail sentence imposed in Ankara on Mr Bülent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister.

Mr Ecevit is about to spend four months in prison for violating a military decree banning former political figures from making public statements.

Mr Atkins, who is the British government's chief spokesman on foreign affairs in the House of Commons, pointed out to the Turkish ambassador that EEC member governments were unable to approve the next instalment of community aid without the formal endorsement of the European Parliament.

Under the EEC aid agreement Turkey is entitled to receive some \$140m (about £70m) a year during the current five-year period.

Mr Atkins added that the British Government greatly regretted that Mr Ecevit's prison sentence had been upheld on appeal by the Ankara martial law court. This decision cast some doubt on the military regime's oft-repeated promise of an early return to democracy, a foreign office spokesman said.



Home on the ranch: President Reagan and his wife Nancy ride out on their California ranch while giving Barbara Walters, the television interviewer, a conducted tour for a new programme.

Britain to face European court over chicken ban

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Nov 25

The European Commission is to take Britain before the European Court of Justice over the chicken and egg import barrier imposed by new British health regulations at the beginning of September.

The regulations, which establish a so-called "slaughter policy" to deal with any outbreaks of Newcastle disease, have been upheld on appeal by the Ankara martial law court. This decision cast some doubt on the military regime's oft-repeated promise of an early return to democracy, a foreign office spokesman said.

The timing of the decision is a little embarrassing to Britain, coming on the eve of the EEC summit in London.

ATHENS IN THE GRIP OF SMOG

Athens, Nov 26

The yellowish-brown cloud of smog that hugs Athens on windless days was still there today despite emergency measures ordered by the Government to reduce the discharge of smoke by industries, quarries, cars and central heating.

The authorities admitted that smoke levels in the city at peak traffic hour this morning were as high as yesterday, causing a public health hazard far above alert level.

Some 65 factories in the Attica area were ordered to cut production by 50 per cent

Blacks' skills are needed Business urges rapid change in S Africa

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Nov 25

A warning that South Africa's businessmen do not share the Government's apparent belief that the country has "unlimited time for the process of change" has been given here by Mr Mike Rosholt, executive chairman of Barlow Rand, the biggest South African industrial group.

In his 1981 statement to shareholders, to be released tomorrow, Mr Rosholt, declares: "There is growing understanding in this country that racial discrimination and economic growth are not compatible. Discriminatory measures must be removed if we are to have stability and an acceptable economic growth."

Reflecting openly much of the criticism voiced in closed session at the meeting between businessmen and Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, in Cape Town earlier this month, Mr Rosholt says it is difficult to contest the view that the pace of change, to which the Government itself is publicly committed, has slackened over the past year.

It is "a matter of urgency to speed up... the removal of all discriminatory measures which restrict equal economic opportunities for all groups and which preclude effective participation by black entrepreneurs in the economy."

The pace of reform has been particularly inadequate, Mr Rosholt contends, in the provision of housing for blacks in urban areas, the registration of black apprentices and the upgrading of black education. He also calls for "complete mobility of (black) labour subject to reasonable safeguards" to be permitted in "white" urban areas.

"Free enterprise and busi-

ness efficiency cannot survive unless suitably qualified persons of all races are able to move without hindrance to take up employment opportunities wherever they are situated."

The Government "must accept the inevitability of increasing (black) urbanisation, because only then will the black urban population have a sense of permanency and belonging which is a prerequisite for the stability we seek."

Mr Rosholt considers a shortage of skills as "the single most important obstacle" to South Africa's ability to achieve an acceptable economic growth rate. The private sector's efforts to train blacks are gravely inhibited by the inadequate state education system.

"The skills shortage cannot ultimately be solved until there is complete equality in education for all groups, and that this can only be achieved, and seen as such by all population groups, if it is under the supervisory control of one body."

He is not necessarily advocating racial mixing at primary and secondary schools, but he does believe that technical colleges and universities "should have the right to admit whoever they like."

In his own company, the movement of blacks, coloureds (mixed race) and Asians into the technical, managerial and professional ranks "continues to be depressingly slow."

Mr Rosholt's views are widely shared in the business world, and by many Verliges (liberals) in the Government. But the logic of his arguments is deeply resisted by the powerful Transvaal-based right wing of the ruling National Party.

Arrigo Levi: A Personal View

Half a glass of hope for the optimist

Leonid Brezhnev's visit to West Germany and the imminent start of the Geneva talks on theatre nuclear forces suggest that a new period of East-West negotiations may be about to begin. Can one hope that the eighties will present fewer threats to world peace than appeared likely in the late seventies?

In recent years, every analysis of the world situation included an awesome list of "factors of danger". The explosive combination of the Soviet Union's weaknesses with its immense military power; America's political and psychological crisis, which compromised its effectiveness as a superpower; the multiple tensions of the Third World; Europe's failure to use its real power to strengthen the world order; the worsening of an economic crisis of global dimensions.

In the late seventies détente had already become a victim to the interplay between these factors of danger, and one could easily imagine many scenarios leading, in the eighties, to a direct confrontation on some vital issue between the superpowers.

To what extent has this gloomy picture been confirmed by recent events? Does the start of new negotiating processes allow us to trust that the factors of danger will be kept under control? The dangers are still there, but one can perhaps see some signs of corrective reactions to them. Let us take as an example the Middle East, which remains the main focus of Third World instability.

The revolutionary potential of the Islamic movement, which is one of the main threats to the region's stability and order, has been proved once again by President Sadat's assassination. But the chaotic situation of Iran, as well as the Iraq-Iran war, also shows that within the Islamic world itself the ayatollahs' challenge gives rise to powerful resistances and reactions, which limit its expansionist power. Europe, America and even Japan, have also shown their readiness to increase the level of their political and military commitments in the area, while new paths of negotiations on the Arab-Israeli conflict are being sketched in the Arab world. Of course the dangers of Islamic revolutions remain great; but some spontaneous counter-trends and some organized policies have shown that this region need not follow a one-way path to disruption. As an important sideline to

these more hopeful trends in the Middle East, oil markets no longer appear as hopelessly ungovernable. A regulated development of oil prices in the eighties now seems possible. This is a precondition for the success of efforts to bring the world recession under control.

The pitiful state of the world economy and the "crisis of growth" must nevertheless still be counted among the greatest threats to world order. Two other threats were considered, however, to be even more dangerous: Soviet aggressiveness, as a reaction to a peculiar mixture of crises and opportunities, and the weakening of America's power and resolution.

As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, the events of 1981 are instructive. In Poland, Soviet power has so far tolerated a genuine counter-revolution. Military intervention can still happen, but obviously such a dangerous threshold cannot be easily crossed; there are apparently limits to the Soviet Union's capability to react aggressively to its own crises. A contributive element to that are the Soviet block's economic troubles, which might become intolerable and have the most serious political consequences without America's grain and Europe's financial help.

The American crisis was considered by many to be the single most important cause of the world crisis. One year of Reagan seems at least to prove that America can react to her own problems, without over-reacting to them in an irrational way, although the combination of forcefulness and readiness to negotiate is still somewhat uncertain.

Finally, Europe: There are several signs of weakness and disarray, together with some indications of a capacity to react. France has chosen a Socialist president without weakening in the least the unity of Europe and the West. Italy and Britain are showing some imaginative reactions to their political rigidities. Herr Schmidt, the German Chancellor, seems to have brilliantly survived many challenges.

A tentative conclusion: The dangers of a global crisis in the eighties have not disappeared, but the world is showing a definite reluctance to follow blindly the many possible paths to its own destruction, as shown also by the start of new East-West negotiations. An optimist would claim that the glass of man's hopes is still half full (or half-empty?).

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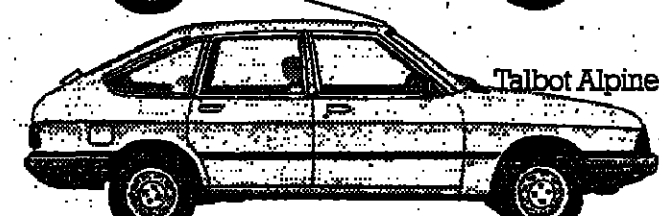
The Talbot Solara, a sleek, stylish saloon whose real beauty lies in its low servicing costs and



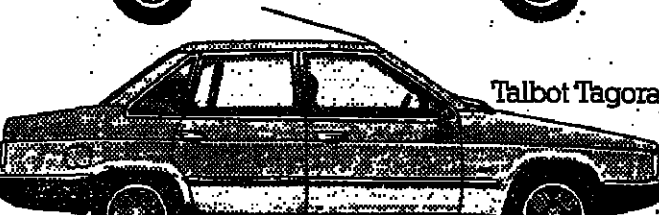
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The Talbot Alpine whose sporty good looks and versatile hatch take you happily through 7 days a week.

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DoE Figures: Horizon 1.5 GL (manual). At steady 56mph - 51.4mpg (8.5 L/100 Km). At steady 78mph - 37.2mpg (7.6 L/100 Km). Urban Driving - 32.8mpg (8.6 L/100 Km). Solara 1.6 GL/CL/SX 5-speed. At steady 56mph - 44.8mpg (6.3 L/100 Km). At steady 78mph - 34.4mpg (8.2 L/100 Km). Urban Driving - 27.1mpg (10.2 L/100 Km). Routine servicing costs over 48,000 miles: Solara 1.6 - £189.88. Cortina 1.6 - £278.12 (based on Manufacturers' published service schedules and parts prices using a common labour rate).

European budget battles divide London summit

By Ian Murray and David Spanier

Britain plays host to the European Community's heads of government in London today as they start two days of summit talks at Lancaster House, with the EEC budget, reform of the common agricultural policy and regional policies the main agenda items.

"It would be an exaggeration to say it is all going to be plain sailing," Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, told MPs. "There are a number of issues on the agricultural policy and the budget which are still some way from a solution."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, as chairman of the meeting, will be seeking with her Community colleagues to set "guidelines" Lord Carrington said. These would need to be "of sufficient severity to make sure these problems are solved, if possible, before the end of the year."

The Foreign Secretary, who was answering questions in the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, said that the point of setting guidelines was to refer the different issues back to the regular ministerial meetings in the European Community "to get on with it". It was not confident of reaching solutions at the coming summit, but remained hopeful.

The two-day summit is somewhat longer than is usual for such events. The reason is that Europe's problems are too detailed and divisive to be solved quickly. Any attempt to force the pace could split the Community.

At the same time Britain is in urgent need of a settlement if there is not to be a repeat performance of last year's traumatic settlement on May 30, when the stop-gap compromise over the common agricultural policy sent out shock waves that continue to rock the Community.

The meeting after a lunch given by the Queen at Buckingham Palace, Lord Carrington

ton, hopes the first session will show whether significant progress is feasible. If so it is quite likely that the officials of the Ten will meet late into the night.

The heads of state and government will dine tonight at 10 Downing Street, as guests of the Prime Minister, and will be joined for coffee by the foreign ministers after dinner at Admiralty House with Lord Carrington.

A variety of international issues will be reviewed during the evening's talks, with Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, taking pride of place to report on his recent discussions with President Brezhnev, and Lord Carrington discussing the Middle East.

The focus for the summit's main talks is the plan drawn up by the European Commission when it was given a mandate to reshape the Community after the May 30 settlement. Its suggestions cover the agricultural policy, other policies and budget contributions and the changes it suggests are seen by some to be so radical as to amount to a rewrite of the Treaty of Rome.

The agricultural policy was identified by the Commission as the key to the difficulty and it suggested a method whereby it received significantly less payments taxed in order to decrease the amount they received.

That solved Britain's difficulties to some extent because it received significantly less from agriculture than other countries. Furthermore, it shifted some of the burden of payment from West Germany to France.

Britain, West Germany and France are thus the three countries with most to fight for at the summit, on the fringes of the argument are Ireland and Denmark, which are quite happy with the way

things are, and Greece, which is musing darkly about renegotiating its entry.

On the sidelines are Spain and Portugal, both seeking entry terms which could disrupt any agreement.

Agriculture continues to hold the key to the European deadlock, especially now that France is taking more positive steps than ever to protect small farmers.

Mrs Thatcher, who can expect to be told the result of the Crosby by-election while she is engaged in these complicated negotiations, will want all the more to make a success of the summit.

On agriculture she will be pressing for a timetable commitment for changes to be agreed over the next few months. Once agriculture is out of the way, discussions will turn to the budget.

To sweeten the pill for the West Germans, who are resigned to having to go on footpads a large part of Europe's bill to the foreseeable future, she will be trying to see that a favourable first reading is accorded to the "European Act" a joint effort by the West Germans and the Italians to breathe life into European union.

The summit's concluding session on Friday will cover traditional topics such as a review of the economic and social situation in the Community, but will be mainly concerned with the communiqué, and the report on progress—or lack of it.

Talks of international issues and political cooperation are the normal bill of fare for summits and are largely too important to disagree about. The reason this meeting is likely to go on much longer than usual is that the main argument is about the house-keeping money, which is the root cause of the worst arguments in any family.

Greece puts its case to European partners

From Mario Mediano, Athens, Nov 25

Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, flew to London today for the EEC summit and intends to put the Greek problem, as seen by his Socialist Government, squarely before his nine partners.

The new Premier seems to have reassured Community members and the Commission privately that before taking any action to pull Greece out of the EEC he would consider how far his Government's national policies can be reconciled with the EEC's rules and procedures.

One of the Greek problems, aimed at the Agricultural Ministers conference last week, is the question of agricultural prices in relation to the Greek inflation rate, which is twice the Community's average. Already, the Government is flouting some Community rules by paying national subsidies to orange growers.

Against this background, the threat to take the issue of full membership to the people in a referendum takes on the form of a negotiating position or, at best, a strategic objective.

This is especially true because of President Karamanlis's reluctance to exercise this prerogative over an issue that is so close to his heart.

According to qualified sources, the first stage for Mr Papandreu will be to explore if Greece's interests can be served within the existing Community arrangements.

This does not mean that he is seeking renegotiation, although some treaty revisions might be needed on such issues as the transitional period for specific products. Mr Papandreu intends to make a general statement on the Greek position in London.

Mr Papandreu stopped over briefly in Paris for a working lunch with President Mitterrand.

Some striking differences in the foreign policies adopted by the Socialist Governments of France and Greece have emerged recently. At least one of them, concerning the Greek objections to the EEC's condemnation of Libya over Chad, has certainly irritated the French.

Western governments, which are disturbed by the more radical aspects of Mr Papandreu's policy, hoped that the Paris meeting would blunt some of its edges.

The fact that Mr Papandreu, who is also Defence Minister, had a meeting with Mr Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister, lends credence to reports that the Greek Government is offering the French large-scale technological cooperation in the arms industry, including possibly the local manufacture of Mirage aircraft.

Social projects heavily cut in EEC budget

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels, Nov 25

More in sorrow than in anger the Budget Commission of the European Parliament today received back the battered Community budget for 1982 after it had suffered a 16-hour mauling at the hands of the Finance Council.

The council meeting, which ended at 4.30 this morning, in theory should have stopped at midnight if its decisions were to be valid. Some Parliament members toyed with the idea of using this procedural technicality to try to have the council document declared null and void, but it was not a view likely to win the day.

The majority of the 16-hour session was devoted to arguing over the smaller part of the budget which is available for non-agricultural spending. The obligatory farm spending, worth about £7,000m, virtually went through on the nod with only a minor deletion to help depressed areas and the unemployed, give aid to the Third World and to do more to help retrain redundant steel workers.

The prime targets of the council axe were social projects, favoured by Parliament, to help depressed areas and the unemployed, give aid to the Third World and to do more to help retrain redundant steel workers.

A quibble over legal niceties meant that some £16m earmarked by the Commission for spending on housing in Northern Ireland was not allocated for the moment. A nicely phrased sentence inserted in the minutes by Ireland, how-

ever, promises that the council will further examine the matter "without delay and will draw the necessary budgetary consequences as soon as possible". Even the austere council, it is believed, will find it difficult to veto this money.

The budget is now to go back to the final bidding by the European Parliament at its session next month and it is certain that attempts will be made to reinstate those parts of it which have been deleted by the ministers.

Between then and now its leaders will be judging whether or not it is really worth seeking another confrontation with the finance ministers or whether it is better to accept the extra £119m for special projects which is now on offer. France and West Germany made it abundantly clear during the marathon meeting that they will oppose any efforts to increase the total any further, with France rather mischievously suggesting that any country with a real social conscience should be prepared to find money for the needy out of their own budgets.

It contains nothing that is significantly new. At the same time, we would hope that the President Brezhnev's willingness to consider reductions in the arms race is a sign that the Soviets are beginning to see the advantages of pursuing genuine arms reductions in this area."

The State Department statement reaffirmed President Reagan's proposal that if the Soviet Union dismantled its SS20 and other medium-range nuclear missiles the United States would forgo the deployment of 572 Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe. This has been widely called the "zero option" proposal.

Mr Weinberger in his interview today also said it would be premature to say now whether there could be a summit meeting between Mr Reagan and Mr Brezhnev as early as next year. He thought the chances would depend on how well the Geneva negotiations went.

Mr Weinberger said it would be counter-productive for a summit to be held until there was at least agreement on the basic points to be discussed.

Reaching to press reports from Los Angeles, Mr J. Paul Getty Jr has issued a statement through his lawyers denying that he has failed to support his handicapped son, Paul Getty III, aged 25, have filed suit in Los Angeles Superior Court alleging that his father has failed to pay \$25,000 (£13,000) in medical bills incurred by his son since he had a stroke last April.

According to documents lodged with the court, the son is without employment, income or assets and has been rendered blind and paralysed by the stroke, which occurred after an evening of admitted drinking and drug-taking.

Mr Getty said in his statement yesterday: "Anyone who believes I am unmoved by my son's tragedy, or willing to see him become a public charge, simply does not know me."

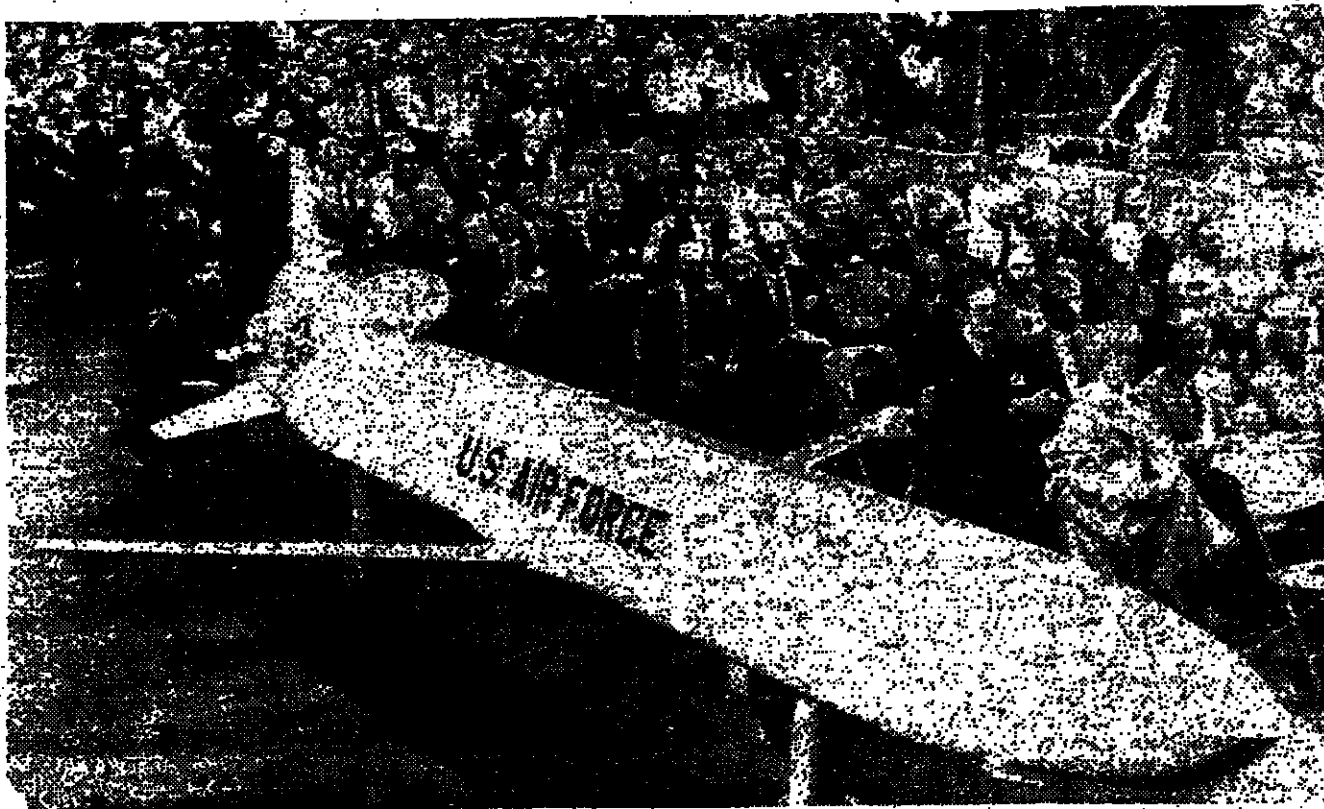
He added that since the separation from his first wife in 1966, "I have been determined to meet my obligations towards my children under the legal settlements as agreed and my paternal responsibilities as I saw them."

Responding to the accusation that he has not been in touch with his son since the stroke, he said: "For medical reasons of my own I am unable to go to the United States but my doctor has been in constant contact with Paul's doctors."

Cardinal Ratzinger has been a member of the Vatican's International Theological Commission. He is a traditionalist in his theology which makes him acceptable to the more conservative elements in the church, especially after the part he played in the Synod of Bishops here.

He is, nevertheless, regarded as a believer in the idea of the collegial approach to church government.

Manila—Twenty-six people have been killed so far by typhoon Irma which blasted across the Philippines, relief agencies said.



Nuclear warhead launched: Boeing Aerospace guests attend the unveiling of the first full production, air-launched cruise missile in Kent, Washington State, on Tuesday. The warhead is the first of 705 missiles to roll off the production line in a \$318m (about £169m) deal for 1980-1981 with the United States Air Force.

US hopes for genuine arms cut discussions

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Nov 25

The United States Administration hopes that President Brezhnev's willingness to consider reductions in the arms race is a sign that Moscow is beginning to see the advantages of pursuing genuine arms reductions in this area.

Mr Casper Weinberger, Secretary of Defence, in a telephone interview today, said the United States was prepared to negotiate in perfectly good faith and be very patient at the nuclear missile reduction talks with the Soviet Union opening in Geneva next month.

The State Department, in a statement last night on President Brezhnev's proposal in Bonn on Monday to reduce some Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe, said that it intended to be neither willing nor to make any concessions which Moscow had made: on several occasions, beginning in 1979.

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Ex-generals urge Nato to remove A-Weapons

The Hague, Nov 25.—A former admiral and six retired generals from Nato countries today called on the alliance to remove all nuclear weapons from the arsenals of Western European nations.

In a memorandum to the Nato command, the retired officers urged removal of all nuclear weapons from the arsenals of Western European nations.

The officers, who have been active individually in their own countries, said that they banded together to lend some military expertise to the campaign for arms control. They said their participation would help show that a broad cross-section of Europeans, and not just the far left, opposes the arms race.

Signor Nino Pasti, a retired Italian Air Force general, now a senator and a former Nato deputy commander for nuclear weapons, said in a statement: "It is absolute nonsense to suggest that millions of people in Europe who are not favourable to the Soviet regime are being influenced by Soviet propaganda. The real issue is not the arms race, but the way of living or a capitalist way of living, it is between life and death."

The memorandum said: "Political prejudices and factual inaccuracies in the alliance have created an exaggerated perception of the Soviet threat. The officers said the concept of military superiority was outdated and futile and would only exacerbate the arms spiral."

Among the other recommendations are that Nato members give up their nuclear arms and Britain and France dismantle their nuclear forces. The memorandum calls on the Warsaw Pact for a similar renunciation of nuclear forces by non-Soviet countries. It urges the United States and the Soviet Union to negotiate a balanced, cooperative approach to disarmament, and to negotiate cutbacks in strategic weapons, preserving a minimum, balanced deterrent force.

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Washington's nightmare Nicaragua's irresistible slide towards Cuba

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 25

A visit to Nicaragua last month by Mr Philip Agee, the former CIA agent who now specializes in exposing American intelligence agents, appears to have confirmed the worst fears of the United States about the political direction being taken by the Sandinista Government in Managua.

Mr Agee went to Nicaragua to attend an "anti-imperialist week" organized by the regime. While there he publicly called for a "Muslimisation" of the "American problem", which was seen as an exhortation to Nicaraguans to follow the example set by the Ayatollah Khomeini's supporters in Iran.

Shortly afterwards a government-backed newspaper published the names of 13 alleged CIA agents working at the United States Embassy in Managua. Because of the atmosphere of growing anti-Americanism, the embassy thought it prudent to advise the families of the named officials to leave the country.

"This is the sort of response we have been getting to our offer to sit down and discuss our problems with the Nicaraguans," commented a State Department official this week, referring to a visit which Mr Thomas Enders, Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, made to Managua last August.

During his visit, Mr Enders presented the Nicaraguans with what Administration sources describe as a remarkable set of proposals including a form of non-aggression pact and assurances that the United States would not support any group in Nicaragua in return for a change in the Sandinista regime's behaviour and orientation.

The Nicaraguans have failed to respond to our approach," complained the official. "All they have done is to make hostile gestures and to accelerate the process of radicalization that has been taking place there during the past few months."

The list also includes the repeated closings of the opposition newspaper, La Prensa; the jailing of four prominent businessmen who had criticized the regime's "drift towards

Marxism-Leninism"; the banning from radio and television of sermons by the stoutly independent Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo; and the curbs placed on the Free Labour Movement.

The fact that Sandinista police have also been rounding up members of the Nicaraguan Communist Party at the same time as arresting businessmen, is not mentioned in this litany of complaints.

But what disturbs the United States Administration, even more than has signs of increasing totalitarianism within the country, has been the rapid expansion of the Nicaraguan armed forces and the help which the Sandinistas are giving to left-wing guerrillas operating in neighbouring states such as El Salvador.

The Nicaraguan Army is being rapidly built up to a force of 50,000 regular combat troops supported by 200,000 reservists. This would be the biggest army in Latin America after Brazil. It is being equipped with Russian arms, including around 30 Soviet-built tanks, and about 70 Nicaraguans are undergoing training in East Europe to become MIG pilots.

This build-up is being assisted by 1,500 Cuban military specialists who are part of a group of over 6,000 Cuban advisers now working in Nicaragua. American officials claim that large quantities of arms are being shipped from Cuba to Nicaragua and then being supplied to leftist insurgents operating in other Central American states.

The fear that Nicaragua is rapidly becoming another Cuba, that it is being transformed into an armed camp from which leftist revolution can be exported to other countries in the region, explains why alarm bells have started ringing in Washington.

What particularly concerns the United States is the claim that Cuba, having failed for two decades to export its revolution to the mainland, may have finally established a foothold in Nicaragua.

The new governor is Mr Clement Arindell, a 50-year-old lawyer who has served as a judge on the islands of Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands. He will take up his appointment tomorrow.

Cholera toll rises

Dar es Salaam.—The death toll from cholera in the central Tanzanian districts of Dodoma and Morogoro has risen to 26, according to reports reaching here. The latest victims died in Dodoma and 18 new cases have been admitted for treatment.

Italian loses his Chinese girl friend

Peking.—Police have arrested a Chinese actress who was planning to marry an Italian lecturer in Shanghai. Italian sources reported. They said that the woman, who is 23 but unidentified, was accommodated in the Shanghai Drama Institute and arrested. The charges were not known.

She was planning to marry Signor Francesco Cardo, aged 23, a lecturer in Italian at the Foreign Languages Institute. They had not taught together, but were planning to marry, but were planning to do so after her graduation in a month. They frequently were seen together but apparently were not living together, sources said.

Wagner's baton stolen in Venice

Venice.—A baton used by Richard Wagner to conduct a concert here in June 1882 has been stolen from the museum of the Conservatory of Music. Professor Pietro Verardo, the director reported.

The baton is of red wood and ivory and is among a number of objects owned by Wagner and on display in a glass case in the museum. He said it had no commercial value "but for Wagner's fans, the value of such an object is considerable."

Vanishing elephant

Jakarta.—A protected species of rare Sumatran elephant, trapped in vanishing jungles in north and west Sumatra, is threatened with extinction by encroaching human settlements. Last month one of 200 elephants trapped in the south was shot and killed by a hunter because it was attacking people, the police said.

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THE ARTS

Television

Glimmer of hope

Grapevine (BBC2) could scarcely have returned at a better time. Not only are the need and opportunities for community self-help and the crying demand for good news at street level more urgent and obvious than ever, but a scorched-earth policy by all three channels has turned Wednesday night into the Empty Quarter of the television week.

Consider. Between four in the afternoon and nine in the evening yesterday BBC2 gave us no fewer than nine repeats of one sort or another, followed by M.A.S.H. (not a repeat, but hardly new) and to the fringes of the BBC1 evening comprised an indifferent Rock Hudson movie, then *Wilfred and Ellen*, sufficiently abused on this page for me to elaborate no further. *Spectnight* (OK for some) summed up the week of whose name 1205 different anagrams were received by John Craven's Back Page in *Radio Times*, the most apt of which, though naturally not the winners, were *Lump Shark in Ocean and Plank in Same Chair*. IIV: Three soaps followed by *Starburst*, which I admit I have never watched, and *Diamonds*, the deep sedative beside which *The Borgias* sizzles like white fire.

So a warm welcome to *Grapevine*, particularly from those who have been watching Bishop Soderini and Gaspare Poto, who precede it, and a welcome even to the presenter, Jenni Barnett, whose efforts not to appear earnest or even important are landing her on some very soft ground between *Jackanory* and *That's Life*. She gave herself *The Worst Presenter of the Year Award* at the end of the show. Nice try: it was nowhere near as bad as that, but she is neither so it so good that the joke did not misfire dreadfully and start you thinking.

The quartet of sharp, attractive and well-matched stories in this first of nine programmes had no need of running gags or funny hats. The Ferry Theatre Group is saving the externally sumptuous *Odeon Cinema* at Woolwich; Britain's first community betting shop is ploughing money back into the large estate it serves on the outskirts of Chester (good, close questioning here from Radio Merseyside); the Stillbirth and Peri-Natal Deaths Association quietly achieves miracles of adjustment and compensation for grieving young mothers; and, areas of Liverpool 8, which look like the South Bronx, *Roadside Flood* and *Rock* against Vandalism give the kids a good time indoors and even get the police, off duty, to go along.

Each story could have made a whole programme by itself, and is being backed by local radio and *Grapevine's* information service. (Address: *Grapevine*, BBC1, London W12 8QT.) The sheets, despatched application are perfectly down-to-earth and joke-free.

Michael Ratcliffe

Interview

Alceste's play of emotion

Janet Baker's last Covent Garden opera begins tonight. John Copley, the director, tells Hilary Finch about it.

John Copley's new production of Gluck's "tragedy in music" *Alceste* opens at Covent Garden tonight with Charles Mackerras in the pit and Janet Baker in the title role. When the curtain comes down at the last performance, on December 15, it will be Dame Janet's farewell to the Royal Opera House.

In an operatic career which stretches from early appearances with the Handel Opera and English Opera Group to a new production of *Orfeo* at Glyndebourne next summer, those works in which the triumvirate of Baker, Mackerras and Copley have ruled have been formidable landmarks. There were *Werther* and *Julius Caesar* for English National Opera, *Dido* at Aix-en-Provence, and *ENO's* *Mary Stuart*, due at the Coliseum again in the spring. But it was Gluck who started it all. Janet Baker first met John Copley in 1958 when, as a student, he was choreographing for Joan Cross's production of *Orfeo* at Morley College.

"I remember most vividly that extraordinary voice making a tremendous impact on me," says Copley. "It was like nothing I'd ever heard before, even Kathleen Ferrier, to whom Janet was often compared then. She seemed a very modest and simple person and I knew from that minute that she was going to be something quite exceptional. Now she's become as big as that, but she is neither so it so good that the joke did not misfire dreadfully and start you thinking.

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Rock

Pointer Sisters

Dominion

As delivered by the Pointer Sisters, "Slow Hand" is not just a single, but perhaps the best women's song written by men (in this case, Michael Clark and John Bertis) since Alice Cooper's "Only Women Bleed". Sexy, refined, subtly feminist, and thoroughly sensible, it also manages to encapsulate the sisters' virtues: a country song performed by a gospel trio, played by Hollywood session musicians and moulded by a master pop producer.

Richard Perry's mid-Seventies productions (for Carly Simon, Ringo Starr and others) did not make him a critics' favourite; he seemed to epitomize the lush, lazy mentality which received its answer in the explosion of punk. Since 1979, however, when he began to direct the Pointers' recordings, he has fashioned a sublime synthesis of pop virtues all the more notable for the economy of its means.

Richard Williams

With their intuitive harmonies and perfect interplay, the sisters respond magnificently to his prompting: there is, too, just enough difference between the individual voices to make the lead-switching meaningful. If I have a preference for Anita over the bouncy Elaine and the dark-toned Ruth, it is because, in songs like "Slow Hand" and "Ruth's Song", she has a more mature, more sophisticated sound. "Slow Hand" is a beautiful, understated, and moving song. It is a song that is not just a single, but perhaps the best women's song written by men (in this case, Michael Clark and John Bertis) since Alice Cooper's "Only Women Bleed".

Richard Williams

Theatre

Richard III

Aldwych

Boar, spider, hunch-backed toad — any actor playing Richard III can take his pick of the bestiality generously heaped upon him, and it is the rare distinction of Alan Howard's performance that he can recall in hurt surprise whenever these terms rise to his enemies' lips, as if to say, "What? Me?"

On first showing at Stratford last November, Mr Howard was hauling him around the stage with a chain attached to a steel boot. He still has a bad leg, that gives way at key moments, but the surgical accessories have gone, leaving him to depend on the rare distinction of Alan Howard's performance that he can recall in hurt surprise whenever these terms rise to his enemies' lips, as if to say, "What? Me?"

His spasms of energy thus become all the more hair-raising, but the real reward of this approach is that it paves the way for a fully masculine King in the second half; for once, the play gathers instead of losing interest after his accession.

Otherwise, Terry Hands' production seems too consciously planned as a companion piece to *Richard II*; another study of an actor king, again with extreme inner circle of sinister cronies, and again seen soliloquizing into a mirror (in this case a dagger that is rarely out of his hand). The part, I believe, resists this approach; the production uncovers with extreme and not always convincing varieties of tempo and is at its best in individual performances, particularly Richard Pasco's Clarence who takes command of his own murder, and Bruce Purchase's, like-like Hastings, and Barbara Leigh-Hunt's Margaret, still trailing through the new court in the bedraggled chain-mail of the Lancastrian wars.

Set by Farrah in a large metallic box graced with barbaric standards, the production uncovers with extreme and not always convincing varieties of tempo and is at its best in individual performances, particularly Richard Pasco's Clarence who takes command of his own murder, and Bruce Purchase's, like-like Hastings, and Barbara Leigh-Hunt's Margaret, still trailing through the new court in the bedraggled chain-mail of the Lancastrian wars.

It is that cast and those settings which have made even his English followers fervently want to be his friend. Apart from the birthday wishes there were an inflatable woman as a present and constant calls for a familiar gag, pleas for contact. But there is a chill between Connolly and his audience. He seems shy of close contact as if it could interrupt the flow of his fantasies.

On balance his first night was poor, displaying a slight tiredness, nerves and a sense that his cast were merely being wheeled on. They still loved him but a question hung in the air after the downbeat ending: is the joke played out? Perhaps he answered that himself with his response to the birthday song "Jesus Christ THIRTY-NINE".

The fans welcomed him to the London stage by singing "Happy Birthday to You", a remarkably good-humoured response to the birthday song "Jesus Christ THIRTY-NINE".

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Dance

Siegfried in mourning

When the curtain rises on the new *Swan Lake* to be given by Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet in Manchester tomorrow, spectators familiar with other productions will be somewhat surprised to find Siegfried and his mother in mourning. Once you think about it, the innovation makes a lot of sense. Peter Wright, the company's director, and the man responsible for getting *Swan Lake* back into their programmes after a gap of 11 years, told me how it came about through his collaboration with Philip Prowse as designer of the production.

"Of course he is much more than just a designer, and through his own work as a theatrical producer he has lots of ideas. I don't necessarily accept everything he suggests, any more than he adopts my thoughts, but we have influenced each other in many ways, just as we did with *The Sleeping Beauty* in Holland earlier this year."

"He asked me, when we were talking over how to treat *Swan Lake*, what had happened to Siegfried's father. We decided that he must only recently have died. That explains why the mother insists that having just inherited the throne, the time has come for Siegfried to find a suitable bride. It also explains why he is so desperate to find a bride, and why he is so desperate to find a bride."

"I am bringing back Benno, the friend omitted from most recent productions. He has arranged the party to try to cheer Siegfried up and his mother is persuading Siegfried to dance with him and two of the court ladies in the *pas de trois*, which I am turning into a *pas de quatre*. That allows us to use the music in its original order, including the solo for Siegfried which had been left out altogether until Nureyev introduced it later in that."

"All the characters at the party will be members of the court. Instead of the usual peasant dance, I am using that music for a polacca for the male courtiers. It gives looks better, so we are adopting that."

Robert North

Sadler's Wells

London Contemporary Dance Theatre's programme at Sadler's Wells this week celebrates Robert North's work. North's work is a celebration of the first days until he left a few months ago to become artistic director of Ballet Rambert. The warm feelings of the dancers and their audience were made clear in Tuesday's performance and in Wednesday's. It must be the first time a whole evening of his ballets has been given. The choice had to be limited to works in the active repertoire: two recent Schubert ballets and his most popular creation, *Troy Games*, dating from 1974. That ruled out showing an example of his distinctive apprentice pieces, or illustrating his flair for incorporating film with live action.

The fact that the first two works both used Schubert

chamber music, together with the bland quality of the choreography, made for a lopsided programme. The delicate but sure inflections of Kate Harrison's dancing in *Death and the Maiden*, and Patrick Harding-Tremer's dramatic authority as her partner, could not cancel the superficial nature of North's semi-abstract response to the music.

The opening work, *Songs and Dances*, is new to London; half new, at any rate — the first part, to the *Quartett*, has been shown alone. Subtitled "Out of Doors", this uses 14 dancers who are kept busy scurrying on, across and off the stage, mostly in small groups. The London contemporary dancers run very well, varying it with the little hesitations and the jumps, rising then breaking like a wave, characteristic of North's own dancing.

The more recent second half, "In Doors", is supposed to depict a musical gathering at home: a curious one, where the guests assemble

after the singer has begun and leave before he finishes, perhaps, like me, they found John Barrow's account of the songs somewhat hammy.

That adjective applies equally to North's predictable visualization of "Der Erlkönig", with sinister shadows behind Christopher Benner's duet with Philippe Graudel, Anita Griffin dancing almost overcomes the facetiousness with which "Lachen und Weinen" is set. The best number is "Ständchen", excellently led by Michael Small and Lizzy Samderson.

North's choreography is always proficiently smooth but not particularly deep. It lets the dancers look good, but rarely stretches them. To my mind, his chief contributions to LCDT were his own dancing, which set a high standard, happily maintained, and the gift of leadership that long marked him out as a potential director.

John Percival

John Percival

Paperbacks

The searching eye of Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria's Sketchbook, by Marina Warner (Macmillan, £3.95)

Queen Victoria's sketches could not be described as the art which conceals art. They are, as Marina Warner says, "guileless, as she was". And they are more often laboured and muddy than facile and fresh. But they do show what can be achieved with a limited talent by expert tuition. Victoria's natural ability for drawing and painting was certainly better than average, but it was vastly improved on by her teachers — Richard Westall, Landseer, Edward Lear and William Leighton Leitch.

Westall gave the strong linear basis of her art, a classical and neo-classical romantic overblow; Landseer, an attention to detail in drawing and etching animals. She copied Lear's fastidious delineation of landscape contours, in which outline was of supreme importance and the nebulous elements were kept firmly in their place, while Leitch showed a rather more swashbuckling watercolour technique, seen at its most liberated in a family scene painted by Victoria at Osborne in 1850.

Observation comes before execution, and the same searching eye which singled out victims for pointed comment in her diaries also helped Victoria to get good likenesses and to fix fleeting attitudes, whether of her children at play or Grindoff's abstract, the senseless heroine to his mountain lair in Pocock's melodrama *The Miller and his Men*.

Victoria confessed to "violent" affections, crushingly repressed in her lonely childhood; and her strong attraction to handsome men is seen in many of the drawings. Lord Charles Duke of Brunswick, who "mesmerized" her as a girl, to her Indian servant Abdul Karim, whose bearded and turbaned head she copied from a portrait by Rudolph Swoboda in 1869. Her affection for Lord Melbourne comes through in her tumbled portraits of him. Sadly, she never drew the other prime minister she loved, Disraeli, though in a rare flower study she painted a posy of primroses, supposed to be his favourite flower. A still more surprising absentee is Prince Albert, who appears only once in an original picture by Victoria (though she copied him from a miniature by Sir William Ross).

This delightful book — an ideal Christmas present — is enjoyable as much for Marina Warner's text as for Victoria's sketches. It can be read as a neatly potted (and illustrated) biography of the great Queen. Her drawing alleviated the solitude of her childhood and the desolate loneliness of her widowhood, when she depopulated, in her paintings, the Highland scenes she had known with Albert — "The landscape itself has been widowed," Miss Warner writes.

Only one minor complaint: Marina Warner makes no reference to the March 1891 issue of the *Strand Magazine* in which an article discussing the Queen's art was published, while she was still living. It would have told her the endearing circumstances under which the Queen's drawing of her first baby was

made in 1841: "When the Queen was making the sketch, a cage with a parrot had been placed on a table near at hand, in order to rivet the child's attention". Perhaps that was the origin of the phrase "Watch for the dicky-bird", so often used in the age of photography which was dawning.

Bevis Hillier

The Divine Comedy, by Dante Alighieri, text with translation by Geoffrey Bickelsteth (Blackwell, £4.95)

After Horace, Dante must be the most translated of poets. This is something of a paradox. Because of the economy of their language and the intricacy of their metres they are just about the two hardest poets to translate. We know, we know: "Poetry, indeed, cannot be translated; and therefore it is the poets that preserve languages." But we do keep trying. It must be because Dante is good.

Geoffrey Bickelsteth, that Grand Old Man of Dante studies, spent 50 years on his translation of *The Divine Comedy*, and was still republishing it. He argued that the only way to translate Dante's poem was into the metre in which it was written, Dantesque *terza rima*, a measure that no major English poet, except possibly Shelley, has managed to sustain for more than a few stanzas. He argued that only *terza rima* could capture Dante's word-play and the mystical concept of poetry that inspired his masterpiece. It is impossible to produce both a version of Dante in *terza rima* and something that reads like an English poem.

Bickelsteth knew, "none better, that he cannot become a Dante, so he asks Dante to become him". But he thought that verse translation could be practised as one of the useful arts by those who lay no claim to be themselves poets. The result is generally agreed to be the best *terza rima* translation available, closer in style to the Laurence Binyon than the Penguin Classics version.

One short task: You remember that majestic scene among the Heretics in the Sixth Circle, when Farinata, the proud Ghibelline chief, sits up in his burning sepulchre. Dante allows even the damned to have their dignity. Farinata entertains the scorn of Hell. Bickelsteth: "I had already fixed on him my sight; and he, uplifting breast and forehead, made as he were holding high in great despite."

Philip Howard

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Christmas with the Special Touch

Art since 1900

The Oxford Companion to Twentieth Century Art

Edited by Harold Osborne (Oxford, £19.50)

This volume might be thought of as *Son of the Oxford Companion to Art* since it was begotten by it, is younger than it both in scope and date of birth and looks much like it: not so good outside (the new book is unattractively, un-Oxonian bound) but in some ways better within. Both were brought into the world by the same accoucheur, namely Harold Osborne.

As it turns out, he has played a much larger part in the creation of the new volume. For Art he had the assistance of about 120 contributors, among them most of the well-known names in art history in this country. In this new book the modern art of the white Commonwealth, Russia, Latin America and Africa — not, one would imagine, a very large fraction of the whole — has been dealt with by a select of specialists. "All other articles," it quietly says, just before the list of plate sections, "are by Harold Osborne."

Although *Twentieth Century Art* has only half the pages of its parent it still comes in at about 600,000 words; a half, but a considerable achievement for all that. Much of the content is straightforwardly informative: dates, places, teachers, influences, exhibitions, jobs, chief works and their locations. This must have taken a lot of gathering, and it is set out with steady and reliable clarity. Even in the more interpretative passages, where the kind of pictures an artist painted is being conveyed, an unusually high level of concreteness is achieved.

One notable advantage this companion has over its predecessor is its reproductions of important or characteristic works. There are 300 of these, many of them in colour, and excellent colour at that. The technique that captured the marvellous blue of a painting by the French abstract expressionist Georges Mathieu must be fairly recent. The older *Companion* had black-and-white pictures in the text but at least put them near the prose to which they were relevant. Here, although only a handful have a page to themselves, they are large enough to remind effectively and even inform.

In his very brief preface the editor says little about his principles of selection, except that he has left out the great nineteenth-century influences, but included twenty-first-century artists such as Munch, Moreau and Bakins. In general information comes to an end in the mid-1970s unless important enough to qualify for last-minute insertion. To find out who the editor thinks deserving we just have to look and see.

The result is to me almost oppressively fashionable and up to date. The expression "modern art" is not purely chronological, but "twentieth-century art" is. Non-modern painters of this century are pretty rigorously excluded, scraping in at times if they were at work in its very early years. It is a defensive position to leave out Munnings, I suppose, although he was only 22 when the century began. But like Sargent and Orpen he was included in the *Oxford Companion to Art*, and they should surely have appeared in any case.

More dubious, perhaps, are the claims of Frida and Herkimer, who were in Art, and of Russell Flint, J. D. Innes, James Flinn, Ruskin Spear, Coming closer to present taste, why not John Minton (a reference in capi-



Three big women. Le Grand Déjeuner, by Fernand Léger from The Members of Modern Art by John Russell (Thomas & Hudson, £18 and £10.50). The book is built on two beliefs. First, that in art, as in the sciences, ours is one of the best centuries yet seen. It is the history of everything. Not just painting, but politics, war, music, the novel, philosophy, everything.

als suggests he fell out late in the day). Ayton, Craxton, Le Brocq?

There are two reasons for thinking Harold Osborne has been really much too like God as viewed by Jehovah's Witnesses in completing the number of his elect. The first is that this is a reference book in which relatively uninformed people will be finding things out. They will be helped if they can relate the objects of sophisticated admiration who are mentioned to the rougher trends they know, and probably like I would be in favour of, at least a mention, however disparaging, of de Laszlo and Annigoni, even of Treteikoff and Peter Scott.

The other reason is more fundamental, if more speculative. One does not have to share the view of Evelyn Waugh that all painting since Augustus Egg is drivel and that Picasso is an obvious

and insolent fraud to suspect that a great deal of the twentieth-century art of this century will fare as badly because of famous originality as, say, Franco Salubury has done from facile imitativeness. Andy Warhol, for example, is treated in these pages as if he were something like Vermeer.

By no means all the articles are on individual artists. Some are on movements (e.g. Art Informel, where a helpful parenthesis, "art without form," steers us away from thoughts of lounge suits or jeans), and others are on nations. Japan has a tiny entry. China and India none at all. Unlike the older companion, *Twentieth Century Art* pays very little attention to architecture. I have found only three architects: Gropius, Le Corbusier and Aalto, who could not decently be deprived of his position as "alphabetic bell-

wether. Nothing about Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Kahn or the Bauhaus, the latter of which was the most important of the twentieth-century movements. On the whole, people and movements come off better than nations. The United States since the war makes a coherent history, but France and Britain do not. There is a large number of truisms, some of which are unreasonably compared with the Greiville memoirs. Both men served at just about the right distance from the centre of power for a memorialist: Clerk to the Privy Council and head of a wartime agency giving each a close view of the going on and of all the people involved in the action without becoming themselves a principal. And whereas, inevitably, when

restoration. But there is a reference to an introduction to Dr Norman Dixon's analysis of "the psychology of military incompetence." Most of what follows is a case-book exemplification.

Anthony Quinton

The rolling stone

The Diaries of Sir Robert Bruce Lockhart

Vol 2 1935-1945 Edited by Kenneth Young (Macmillan, £30)

On the day Germany attacked Russia, Bruce Lockhart was staying at Cheltenham, with Beaverbrook, who informed him, company at dinner. "But for women, Bruce would have been Prime Minister and certainly Foreign Secretary by now." A nice bit of flattery, and Bruce Lockhart thought it worth recording in his diary without comment, though he never tries to pretend that this was the sort of success he was looking for or would have been any good at. He was, as Kenneth Young says, a rolling stone, and though such stones have rolled into cabinets they have never in recent times rolled to the top (difficult in politics and of substance to roll uphill).

For six years, from the beginning of the war till the end of August 1945, Bruce Lockhart was back in harness as government secretary to the Prime Minister and head of the Political Warfare Executive (PWE). It is the diaries for those years which constitute two-thirds of this second volume, and which are likely to be his most lasting memorial. They are full, candid, graphic and anecdotal; it would not, in fact, be unreasonable to compare them with the Greiville memoirs. Both men served at just about the right distance from the centre of power for a memorialist: Clerk to the Privy Council and head of a wartime agency giving each a close view of the going on and of all the people involved in the action without becoming themselves a principal. And whereas, inevitably, when

politicians and generals put pen to paper they write in self-justification, Lockhart was under no such obligation. If anything he is too self-deprecating (here again like Greiville). At the time of Germany's surrender he summed up:

What did I achieve during these war years? Very little, I conclude. With regret I reflected that for 2064 days of the war I had hardly ever spoken or heard an intellectual or unselfish argument. I had read little and remembered less and had not lived a single day that was not artificial. . . . When I look back on the war, I am sure that I should have been a much more useful and more successful man than I was.

In fact PWE, with its various forms of "black" and "white" propaganda, was a necessary arm of warfare, and though Sir Robert Young says, Lockhart was not "cut out by nature of experience to be a manager or administrator," he was courageous, inventive and hardworking. More than can be said for many of those he had to deal with.

For most of the time he was required to serve two masters, Eden as Foreign Secretary, and Brendan Bracken as Minister of Information. He respected both and their respective jobs, and when they consulted him they usually got good advice, particularly on Russia and east Europe, which he knew well. He writes amusingly and generously about both of them. He is Eden's "usual, very nice," exerting his charm, full of frustration over Churchill ("Oh God, I do wish the old man would go"), that was March 1946 but

might have been many times earlier or later, or "like a schoolboy in his exuberance at the prospect of becoming first Secretary-General of the United Nations." Here is Bracken on, stepping up religious broadcasts to Germany: "I'll get you all the priests you want. I'll get hold of their archbishop fellow for you. I'll get him to lunch and give him some books."

His old boss Beaverbrook, was the third of Lockhart's trinity, more than once rescuing him from imminent insolvency. But his real political love was for the Czechs, and he is most moving in his account of his friendship with Benes and Jan Masaryk. Many times he regrets that he had not retained his job as representative to the exiled Czech government in preference to doing the propaganda he at heart despised.

As might be expected of someone who ran the *Evening Standard* diary off and on for eight years before the war and was Atticus on the *Sunday Times* after it, he has a quick ear for good stories. But he is not a gossip, and more out of touch the "first-class stories" about the great and the second-hand and the interest of the tales.

Lockhart's Strachey said of Greiville: "He was not exactly a gossip, nor a busybody; he was an extremely inquisitive person, in whom nature had bestowed a natural gift for everybody to confide. Thus the broad current of London life flows through his simple pages and, as one turns them over one glides swiftly into the curiously distant world of 80 years ago."

Read "already curiously distant world of 40 years ago"; and that is true of Bruce Lockhart at his wartime best.

E. C. Hodgkin

Living with the bomb

The Evolution of Nuclear Strategy By Lawrence Freedman

(Macmillan, £25)

The atom bombs which were dropped on Japan in 1945 unleashed a monster which the world ever since has been struggling to control. The solution so far, reached more by accident than design, has been to create a second monster of similar size and shape, so that the two can intimidate each other while we get on with the business of living. In short we have learned not only how to live with the bomb but how to take advantage of it.

Dr Freedman makes the point that much of the early post-1945 strategic debate was simply a continuation of that over long-range aerial bombardment which had characterized the 1930s. Nor is there anything conceptually new about deterrence, which was being practised in the days when men fired bows and arrows and wore chain mail. What is new is the scale of the disaster which would follow should deterrence fail. As Dr Freedman says again, it is now very difficult to contemplate

a future without nuclear weapons (though unilateralism is presumably do so) while it is equally difficult to comprehend the consequences of their use.

The trouble is that the threat of mutual assured destruction and its notorious acronym MAD, is not as simple as it sounds — although it is quite as horrific. For one thing, it relies upon the assumption that the control of nuclear weapons remains with rational people who would at no time relish the prospect of national suicide. For another it can be complicated by the proliferation of nuclear weapons — already possessed by 54 countries (the half being India) and perhaps, clandestinely, by more than that. A third difficulty is that the threat of nuclear retaliation has to be credible, both to the country which makes it and the people against whom it is made.

This unique and scholarly work by one of our leading young strategic thinkers is a critical history of official and unofficial attempts to grapple with these problems and construct a nuclear strategy which is thoroughly convincing or at worst plausible.

Its timing is impeccable, emerging as it does after the

flurry of confused and confusing statements from Washington and four days before the start of what reflects the US-European issue.

Yet Dr Freedman, who is Head of Policy Studies at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), concludes that after 35 years we have reached a position where stability depends on something which is really the antithesis of strategy. It rests upon the very fear that we might indeed act irrationally if and when the time comes that events could easily slip out of control. This threat is credible because if there were a major breakdown in East-West relations in Europe and fighting began, plans drawn up in advance would be quickly overtaken by the confusion. "Those who have responsibility for unleashing nuclear arsenals live by the motto that if they ever had to do so they would have failed. Remarkably, up to now they have not," he says.

Henry Stanhope

Eight pages of books for Christmas tomorrow in Preview

New war games

The Little Field-Marshal

Sir John French

By Richard Holmes

(Cape, £12.50)

Auchinleck

The Lonely Soldier

By Philip Warner

(Buckley & Enright, £10.50)

Florence Nightingale's "nurse made a terrible confession. 'My parents', she said, 'were children playing on the shores of the eighteenth century. I was their plaything. Mutants, mutants, mutants'."

"Johnnie" French, Field-Marshal and first Earl of Ypres. Richard Holmes concludes that "in many respects he never transcended the nineteenth century," and the bodies hanging on the German wire in those dreadful disasters of 1915, Neuve Chapelle, Festubert, Loos, seem now like the broken toys of a man whose mind had failed to move on. Toys he carried for certainly, but his dismissal after fudging the accounts for Loos like some pennant banker, French reminds one of those northern generals who were Lincoln's despair in the early phase of the Civil War, caught up in some monstrous new game whose rules were beyond their comprehension.

All this is perfectly clear to Mr Holmes, who is a senior lecturer at Sandhurst. He knows, too, that French was devoted, unstable and terminally inept. All his womanising is frankly discussed — as though that mattered. For the issue is generalship. On the credit side a fine record in the Boer war and winning way with the troops.

All in all, therefore, Mr Holmes may be credited with one of the most gallant rear-guard actions since Mons and Le Cateau — where the French might be said, saved himself — in the process he has written an excellent, now collected and published in honour of his seventy-fifth birthday.

There is not a lot here for your comfort, except about how to treat the common way from youth to age without illusions. His grave epigrams, Burke's pun about epitaphs, are not solemn. They are elegant oxymorons of pessimism and wit upon the tomb, renunciation of the London friend who calls himself Success, and the rest of our world. There are bitter-sweet Latin elegiacs about Amor and all that. There are sparrowhawkish political quips, owlish clichés, and soaring puns: "Don't send me to Coventry 'pet moral'!" But at its centre there is the bright hard stuff of real poetry, notably in a poem about death being nearer now than yesterday, and one to Santa Maria della Salute, built around the incantation to Theodor and Hasselquist (the Venetian iron foundry) inscribed on the lamp-post at the Punta della Dogana. This marches with the economy of language and the Roman pessimism of Housman. Behind the classical mask of common decency, and common sense, powerful feelings are marshalled and move. Sparrow has an eagle's heart.

Philip Howard

restoration. But there is a reference to an introduction to Dr Norman Dixon's analysis of "the psychology of military incompetence." Most of what follows is a case-book exemplification.

The Auk also had his personal Mons, though this time the C-130 saved the army. It is a pity, however, that Mr Warner has too readily followed a path well trodden by Correll Barnett, John Connell, and Roger Parkinson, whose books rate Auchinleck so highly as "Victor at Alamein" in July 1942. For why was he there? He pulled the fat out of the furnace, but who soaked the furnace?

Crusader, that victory with one mortar, the shambles of Gazala, the loss of Tobruk — it was the flawed generalship displayed in the higher conduct of these operations that drove our backs to the wall at Alamein, and of course Auchinleck, should have been: not least because, by early July, the Afrika Korps was down to a handful of tanks. It is indeed startling to realize, now, how much was in fact known in Cairo about Rommel's weakness. Mr Warner must have regretted writing that "Ultra had been of little value to Auchinleck at Alamein in July" when he read the recently published second volume of the official history of Intelligence, wherein Professor Hinsley and his colleagues disclose that during these weeks Ultra messages were pouring into the Middle East by the hundred. As to their operational value for Auchinleck, they are explicit and specific.

Imperturbable spirit, when will they let you rest from their arguments about Africa, and "First" or "Second" Alamein, and was Montgomery a beast to let Forth know about Slim and Wavell and Mountbatten knew at the time — that none can dispute your real achievement, the subsequent regeneration of our military strategy in India and the moulding of that vast base from which, at last, we marched back in triumph to Rangoon. On those playing-fields, at least, you were Victor Ludorum.

Ronald Lewin

Fiction

Silver's City

By Maurice Leitch

(Secker & Warburg, £6.95)

The State of Ireland

By Benedict Kiely

(Corgi, £10.95)

The Collected

Stories of Sean O'Faolain

(Constable, £8.50)

"Ah, look, fellas, no shooting. Please, I'm a Protestant. Honest to God." In flashes, as in subliminal advertising, Maurice Leitch exposes a central nervous system. Through minor characters in a novel something less than first-rate, something more than an exercise in exorcism, *Silver's City* encapsulates a tribe. It takes one to know one. A Belfast taxi driver, like any Belfast citizen, will quickly slot you into one of two categories: that matter. Hijacked by gunmen, he has to get right.

If Belfast is your birthplace, you bear its birthmark; burned by one or the other branding iron of atavistic allegiance. It disfigures. It can kill you. But it is your only authentic identity in a city crowded with surrogate ones. Belfast comes in mirror images: a tale of two cities which may never be told satisfactorily, because those best equipped to perceive and express it are cast in one image or the other. Maurice Leitch won the Whitbread Prize for fiction this year. "Silver's" city — his city, and mine — is a Protestant reflection: an Orange drop in

an ocean of Green writing about Ireland.

"Silver" Steele has served ten years into life sentence and legend jointly acquired for firing a chemist's shop, then shooting. His Catholic proprietor asks: "Is this a Roman torch. Snatched from behind the wire, terminally sick, Silver on the run is at once a terrorist-tourist lens on Belfast ancient and modern: a 'loyalist' totem, a back-number 'G' 'hatched' racketeer, with toupées and identity bracelets, preside over Protestant dreams dissipating for want of old disciplines. "Politicians and their kind, not poor Fenian bastards, are the real enemy."

Mr Leitch contrasts styles of violence in old and new "loyalist" theologies. No mediocre novelist, he brings it off, but he is not at ease. Parts of the narrative seem, curiously, commonplace: central characters are shadowed over to a degree acceptable only to the extent that a potent, pitiful, cityscape commands the book. Belfast rules, OK? "Wasn't this a nice wee place to live in, once upon a time?" Well, wasn't it?

James Joyce once boasted (mistakenly, but gloriously) that Dublin, if destroyed, could be rebuilt brick by brick, using *Ulysses* as a blueprint. It is conceivable that Dublin, happy battleground between far-off allegiances, county town of Tyrone, could be reconstructed from Benedict Kiely's stories.

The *State of Ireland*, perceived by him, is rooted there. No echoes of exile and distress are wedded to the landscape; gentle, rich in accurately used language and sharp detail; as conservative in tone as Virgil. It is lovely stuff to read. Even conflicting mythologies seem part of

the natural order of things.

Mr Kiely's special skill is stories within stories: Irish poems, songs, patriotic ballads used as bricks to build up his point. "A Ball of Malt and Madam Butterfly," teasing, with a touch of a pun-brother on the Dublin quays, is woven with Yeats's love poetry. A tale of a "rural race," mistaken for the priest he has accompanied on a visit to the lunatic asylum, frames a William Morris poem about choice between heaven and hell.

Fans of *The New Yorker* will recognize some of them: America is a "Mintland Green" even than literary Ireland. Fans of the genre will recall, as much as Sean O'Faolain's, a "thirty, thirty of which are collected here in a second anthology of his work. Mr O'Faolain is the doyen, Mr Kiely no less a master of the Irish short story in English. It is his gift of loving, honouring, and obeying the absurd.

It thrives, mightily. But we should notice that where some — Maurice Leitch, for one — "write" others are "story-tellers." For these, Ireland is audience as well as subject: their craft is mimicry rather than mimicry; the result a comic turn in the street rather than classical acting on the world's stage. Literary Ireland addresses Joyce less than we do; and is more baffled by Becker: neither is "local" enough. An Irish writer born in Protestant Belfast put his finger on the phenomenon: "Why do we like being Irish? Partly because it gives us a hold on the sentimental English/American members of a world that never was, Baptized with fairy water." Louis MacNeice got it right.

Gay Firth

Fat men

Exotic Pleasures by Peter Carey (Picador, £1.95)

Last year these ten short stories came out under the title *The Fat Men in History*. I was delighted to find a new voice, a writer from the other side of the world who wrote for the future, not the past. A grim future, it is too, where one civilization has disappeared and not been replaced by anything much — regulations and inspectors, the back yards of space, and

the rule of the Fastalagians, described as "space gypsies, or the rule of the advertising man, the entrepreneur. The title story is a black little fable about the blue bird — the genuine blue bird of happiness. Touch it, and you felt happy. Lily and Mort made a fortune with it. "Touch the Pleasure Bird, a dollar a minute." And destruction followed: "The Chance" — a bitter love story of an experienced man and a beautiful, exotic girl who wants to escape from her upper class background to "real" people through the lottery known as the Chance

— a change of body, age and voice (you keep your memory. Sometimes you win more often, you lose).

Some of the stories and with a Grand Guignol shock — some are part of the new science fiction tradition, on the edge of it. The fat men are still in the book, living together by stealing in an authoritarian state.

Peter Carey's novel *Bias* has just been published, and I hope we are witnessing the start of another Australian's brilliant career.

Philippa Toomey

Sea struck and sea sick

A Book of Sea Journeys

Compiled by Ludovic Kennedy

(Collins, £7.95)

Ever since the old fellow with the long grey beard and glittering eye laid hands on the Wedding Guest, people returned from sea voyages have suffered an irresistible compulsion to go on and on about them. Mr Kennedy can have had no problems with shortage of material for this change of material for his companion volume to his recent book of railway journeys. The sea has the advantage of a relative greater risk of wreck or going astray, but it is marginally more polluted with symbolical literary rhodomontade. The wise anthologist takes care not to let the sea-struck

out-weigh the sea-sick in his selection.

Mr Kennedy is a former naval person, and has an expert eye for nautical detail as well as a lively sense of human interest. His choice ranges from ocean liners to slave-traders, from the super-tanker to the doughty canoe. With so wide a field, it is tempting though unfair to complain of omissions — the Ancient Mariner, Noah, the Vikings, Catullus's bean-bast, Pocahontas Smith, Falconer, Marryat, Richard Hughes and sea-shanties in general. There is rather too much reliance on compilations, official naval histories and other indirect sources, and Mr Kennedy's choice of verse is meagre, and not happy.

But there are many excellent first-hand things, some of them quite out-of-the-way. They include rueful

reflections on life in a transatlantic galleon by a humorous Spaniard contemporary with Cervantes, (possibly the only other such Spaniard ever recorded); conflicting naval reports on the state of Napoleon's teeth; Dickens making the most of a rough crossing in the *Britannia*; Stevenson calmly observing snobbery from the underside in an early cloth-cap experiment; endless privations valiantly endured in lifeboats; tactful coaching for George III and his Queen in the graceful negotiation of wooden battleships's company. All in all, there is ample material here to bring all but the wholly incorrigible reader round to Johnson's view that anyone is in general better advised to go to prison, if he can, than go to sea.

George Hill

This week

Drawing the line

Combining the vigour and immediacy of folk art with the complexities of political debate, the cartoon has had an enormous influence on the way we see ourselves and our leaders. In the next two issues of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, A. L. Reid and Harry Dickinson examine the development of the political cartoon in the two countries where arguably, its influence has been greatest — the Soviet Union and the U.K.

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**DANGER: H.M. Government Health Departments' WARNING:
THINK FIRST-MOST DOCTORS DON'T SMOKE**

After Scarman: a militant voice of black dissent and the policeman at the centre of the storm

My fears after this failure

By Darcus Howe, Editor of Race Today

Whatever else Lord Scarman had to do, there were two major tasks before him. First, his report had to show that he grasped the essence of the historical moment in its entirety. The British people needed to be informed of those essential characteristics which distinguished the summer uprisings from anything that had gone before. Only by extracting these characteristics would Lord Scarman have been able to fashion the foundations of his report from which his recommendations would automatically flow, recommendations which would reflect and harmonize with the range and depth of the revolt.

Secondly, he had to recommend not what is possible for a Tory government led by Mrs Thatcher to accept, but what police officers may or may not be happy with, but what is historically required to restore the balance of power which had over a quarter of a century, leaned heavily in favour of the police.

Yet again, official society has failed to grasp the nerve. The Scarman report is way off beam in all matters that are essential and crucial. I aim to prove and to give others the opportunity of proving it for themselves.

Three central features emerge out of the revolt on which any report must rest. First, within 10 minutes of the Brixton uprising, a body of about 30 young men gathered and began to transform a spontaneous reaction into an organized revolt. They coolly set in motion and supervised the mounting of barricades and the manufacture of petrol bombs. They organized scouts, who moved around on roller skates and bicycles, bringing in detailed information on enemy positions.

They organized the commandeering of vehicles, set in train diversionary actions to confuse the enemy. They selected within buildings to be destroyed by fire and saw to it that they were. They organized points where those who were injured were attended, all the while in touch with developments within the area affected by the revolt. Finally, they took a

decision to retreat, which the mass of young blacks promptly obeyed.

Such a body of men and women exists in every black community in this country. That is what the revolts reveal. The point was not lost on the Chief Constable of Manchester. Describing his experience on the streets of Moss Side he said: "I have described it already as a form of guerrilla warfare and that's precisely what it is. They [young blacks] employed unique and extraordinary tactics and last night we had to be extremely flexible in our nature and ability to respond."

Secondly, West Indian parents are not prepared to make or to throw petrol bombs at the police. I have discovered, though, that once young blacks act in this way, older West Indians are prepared to offer them sympathy and support. This represents a profound transformation in attitudes.

Thirdly, we in the West Indian community have refrained in the past from taking drastic action, fearing the much touted white backlash. It has not come, and there is little possibility that it will. Something else has happened. Young whites joined the revolt.

This brings me to the crucial question. Why is it that the best elements in official society are unable to grasp the nerve? And by best elements I mean those who are not prepared to respond, at this stage, with extreme and brutal bloodshed. How could Lord Scarman ignore such significant developments? The answer lies in one word, myth. They are constrained, inhibited and dominated by the myth that the British police are the best in the world.

The British people, in the course of neutralizing a powerful monarchy, established parliamentary democracy and in the process developed a sense of democracy and freedom over and beyond that existing in most other countries. Later, millions of ordinary working people combined to add greater weight and depth to the democratic tradition.

It is this developed instinct for democracy and freedom which has kept the British police in check, which has ensured that restraint on the police be written into law. In addition, the British people have, for centuries, practised an alertness and vigilance which ensured that any attempt by the police to break out of the legal and administrative constraints was powerfully resisted. Once these constraints are absent, it has been proved that the British police are capable of all the excesses which characterize other police forces.

That has been the West Indian community's experience. For some considerable time we lacked the alertness and vigilance which a vibrant community produces. The police sensed this and searched for an excuse to accept that the police were the best in the world. An extensive body of experience exists to support these allegations.

To this formidable police power successive governments, over the last ten years, have added exceptional powers of stop and search, the preparation to accept that parliamentarians, in giving these powers to the police, thought the police would exercise them discreetly.

But a police force with a capacity for discreetly employing stop and search powers in the black community had to exist, except in the parliamentarians' minds. The British police have used these powers to express every whim, caprice and prejudice imaginable. And it is in this context that the Operation Swamp was formulated and deployed.

There was only one force in British society capable of bringing Operation Swamp to air, and that was the black community in revolt. That was and is the last card, and in playing it the black community laid the basis for an equitable reconstruction.

Lord Scarman's recommendations and their implementation needed to create a political impact comparable to that which their revolt had generated. Independent element in complaints and his vacillation on



Howe: Mere tinkering?

accountability remain peripheral unless accompanied by a radical and central thrust capable of correcting the gross historical imbalance. His entire package has failed to meet this vital requirement. It is mere tinkering.

He had the opportunity to demand the immediate abolition of all powers of stop and search. Not at some future uncertain date but now. Twenty five years of history demanded that stringent safeguards aimed at protecting the suspect from physical abuse, verbal and forced confessions be enacted at once. And finally, the experiences of the West Indian community at the hands of magistrates screamed for the recommendation that the Lord Chancellor issue guidelines to magistrates requiring the highest standards of police evidence before defendants are convicted.

Such a package would represent a modest beginning, but it would certainly have meant to the West Indian community that at last a government was willing to tackle this problem in a fundamental way.

Lord Scarman's failure to act along these lines has ensured that those forms which appeared in the streets of Brixton and other cities must necessarily develop into full-blown manifestations in the not too far distant future.

McNee's new mandate

Sir David McNee could be forgiven for feeling galled this morning by the outcome of the Scarman Inquiry. For the man whose police force is now being urged to improve community policing in London is also the man who as Chief Constable of Strathclyde in the mid-1970s made community policing an accepted and important part of police strategy in Scotland.

Lord Scarman notes that the law "must be applied sensitively as well as firmly", and points to "hard" policing methods which "caused offence and apprehension to many" in Brixton. Yet Sir David, who must take ultimate responsibility for the actions of his officers, ten years ago in Glasgow halted the use of confrontation tactics by the police in the city's slums.

On the face of it the man who now commands London's 24,000 policemen seems a very different man from the one who led 6,500 officers in Scotland 4½ years ago. Have London's problems changed? Sir David's outlook or are his ideas still trying to break free of Scotland Yard's bureaucracy and hard-line attitudes? Lord Scarman has been gentler than some police officers expected but will Sir David and the Home Office now feel it is time for a new hand at the helm to instil fresh public confidence?

During his years in Glasgow and Strathclyde Sir David established groups of neighbourhood policemen to work in the sprawling housing estates and created a new line of attack against juvenile delinquency. When the people on some of the Glasgow estates complained of the activities of police squads nicknamed "The Synchronisers" and using the techniques of saturation and confrontation, Sir David reorganised the squads drastically.

Sir David came to London in 1973 after a career which had made him, in the words of one senior politician, "a policeman's policeman". The son of an engine driver, he joined the police in 1946 starting on the beat in Glasgow. It was not he became a detective inspector in Glasgow's flying squad that his career took off.

He was the first Glasgow



McNee: How hard a line?

graduate of Broomhill Police College and by the spring of 1973 had become Glasgow's youngest chief constable at the age of 45. When the Scottish forces were reorganised he was given control in 1975 of Strathclyde.

When Sir Robert Mark decided to retire as commissioner in London McNee's name was put forward. At the time a major issue was corruption within the London force. What was needed was a commissioner free from any connection with Scotland Yard, a man who knew how to run a big city force and one who would crack down on police peccadilloes.

Sir David had all the attributes. But the Metropolitan Police found itself with a commissioner very different from Sir Robert, who could hardly use publicity and argue academically.

Perhaps the combination of toughness, astuteness and resource is a key to Sir David's career in London. Brought south to fight corruption, he found that in London the Devil has more than one head and the Scarman Inquiry has shown many of them in full profile.

Sir David was blooded within a few months of taking office. In the summer of 1977 he upheld the right of the National Front to free speech in marching through

Lewisham, south London. More than 200 people were injured. In 1979 Mr Blair Peach, a New Zealand teacher, died during clashes between supporters of the Anti-Nazi League and the police during a National Front meeting in Southall, west London.

Sir David constantly upheld the duty of the police to maintain law and order without ever shirking their responsibilities. At the same time he fought for new powers and tried to defend old ones. His proposals to the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure in 1979 as further infringements on the freedom of the individual. The black community attacked the "sus laws" as a means of persecution but Sir David maintained they were needed to fight crime.

The Special Patrol Group, the centre of many allegations and criticisms, has been overhauled and tactics in dealing with public demonstrations constantly improved. While Brixton has bubbled, the Notting Hill Carnival has now largely reestablished its equilibrium after the disorders of some years ago.

"Brick Lane has been given a police station. In Southall where a punk-rock concert this summer resulted in a riot by Asian youths a senior officer who had built up a good reputation in the area was brought back to repair the damage in the aftermath."

A former colleague of Sir David sees no contradiction between the man who was Chief Constable of Strathclyde and the man who is now Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. In both jobs, Sir Robert has faced a "hard-line" police force.

Within London, others would dispute the "hard-line" tag and point to the fact that there simply are not enough officers since London's police strength is based on a 1950 estimate which was out of date when it was made.

It has often been thought that Sir David would remain commissioner for five years. The Scarman Report may be the weapon he needs both inside and outside the force to continue his work.

Stewart Tandler

The reality behind Bright Star

Cairo

General Robert C. Kingston looks as though he had stepped from one of those films the Americans made during the grim days of the Second World War. He has a thick, chunky face, a square jaw and slightly hooded eyes and he punches out his words like a prizefighter. "If the Russians or any other enemy or potential enemy want to take on the United States," he says, "I'm going to give them that opportunity."

It sounds a little like General George Patton or John Wayne although General Kingston speaks in a monotone, breaking his sentences into three-word segments as though dictating messages over a field radio. He commanded two brigades in Vietnam. In a tight spot, he is the sort of man a soldier might want to rely on.

That is what the Arabs are meant to think too, for Kingston's Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force is supposed to spread confidence among the pro-western nations of the Middle East that the United States will turn up in strength to defend both her interests and her friends. The fact that the two may prove to be incompatible has been quietly forgotten in the razzmatazz that has accompanied Bright Star 82.

But even the United States' presumed friends have not always been forthcoming enough to welcome the American troops to their bosoms. True, the Egyptians have allowed 4,000 men of the 82nd and 101st Airborne and 24th Infantry Divisions

to demonstrate their explosive capabilities in the desert 70 miles from Cairo, but Somalia preferred to limit American forces to just 250 men, a clutch of bulldozers, trucks and a highly regarded but somewhat defenceless water purification unit.

The Omanis, guided as usual by their British advisers, asked the Americans to confine their exercises to a remote part of the country and insisted that no information be disclosed on what the American troops were doing or where they were.

In fact, parties of American marines are staging landing manoeuvres on the beaches west of Salalah, near enough to South Yemen to enable the Soviet technicians based there to observe the exercises on their surveillance equipment.

The landings have provided the Americans with experience of a coastline with which they may have to be familiar in a Soviet-American confrontation in the Gulf, and there have been other dividends of Bright Star 82. In Egypt, GIs have been able

to watch and occasionally use Soviet equipment. They have learnt that in the desert they must wipe the oil from the outside of their M-16 carbines if they are to prevent sand sticking to the weapons and jamming them.

The existence of the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) has been firmly established. The Iranian revolution, the seizure of the American hostages in Tehran and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan displayed American impotence: the RDF shows that the United States is still ready to fight. But its specific tasks are less clear. Is it meant to defend Arab states from Soviet aggression or — as some Arab nations suspect — to involve them in a conflict with the Russians if American interests are attacked?

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the American Secretary of Defence, is quite revealing on this point. Although he talks fulsomely about the Soviet threat to the Gulf, he refers specifically to the need to "defend the access routes" that the Russians would use in their invasion of a gulf state shows that despite the Soviet hardware stored in Libya, a Russian attack is hardly likely to be made by way of Egypt or Sudan. A further, more intriguing clue comes in a few lines of a film made by the American government that is included in the work of the RDF.

The film contains a series of graphics which show the invasion routes the Russians might take to reach the warm waters of the Gulf. Three bright red arrows move south from the headquarters of the 22 Soviet divisions which are stationed along the Iranian and Afghan frontiers. These arrows sweep into Iran, one plunging southwards towards Iraq towards the Iraqi port of Basra on the Shatt-al-Arab waterway.

Nor is there much doubt, talking to American officers in Egypt, that the United States is preparing for the possibility of fighting north through the Gulf. The Californian commander of the US 24th Infantry Division has been training resemble the rugged deserts and mountainous terrain of Iraq and Sudan, Somalia or the Gulf states.

That is one reason why the pro-western Arab nations have been so slow to express their enthusiasm for the presence of American troops or to offer them bases. And that is why countries such as Syria have so bitterly condemned the Bright Star exercises. The Americans say they will go to the aid only of countries which seek their assistance. But would Iran ask for help from Washington even if the Russians were to move into their rear? Or would the Americans cut through Baluchistan?

Those Arabs who believe in the conspiracy theory of history are also well aware that in the worst conflict scenario, the Americans would form a front line

against the Russians down the Iraqi-Iranian frontier — the very battlefronts of the present Iraqi-Iranian war.

The permutations of such a struggle extend far further than the Middle East. The RDF keeps thousands of tons of armour on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, but a prolonged conflict in the area would necessitate convoys of American supplies from the United States. At present these could reach the RDF in 30 to 35 days in a fleet of six tankers. But in a war the Arab states may have to face if they find themselves standing shoulder to shoulder with the RDF in the Middle East, the Americans would have to sail round the Cape.

Who would defend them? An American survey of the waters around southern Africa has found sharp variations in depth, a phenomenon that confuses sonar equipment. The Americans need a bunkering port for their naval protection vessels on the African coast, and with Angola and Mozambique now denied to them, the only harbours that might conceivably be open to them in a conflict with the Soviet Union are in South Africa.

Even Egypt would be agitated at the thought of cooperating, however remotely, with Pretoria, yet these are realities that the Arab states may have to face if they find themselves standing shoulder to shoulder with the RDF in the Middle East. The Americans would have to sail round the Cape.

Earlier this week, the Egyptian 21st Division snaged a shock attack on an ably defended hill in the Western Desert before General Kingston and his senior officers. The Egyptian troops charged across the desert floor, waving their Kalashnikov rifles and shouting into the sky. As they passed, their cry could clearly be identified. "Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar", they were shouting — God is great, God is great.

General Kingston and his colleagues fell silent. For all the sophistication of their communications, the precision of their bombing runs and their helicopter attacks, this was a message with which the men of the Rapid Deployment Force had not come to terms.

Robert Fisk

Ronald Butt's column has been held over

"Let's not confuse ostentation," I said, "with style."

There was little danger of that, I reflected, as I looked again at the pocket watch she handed back to me.

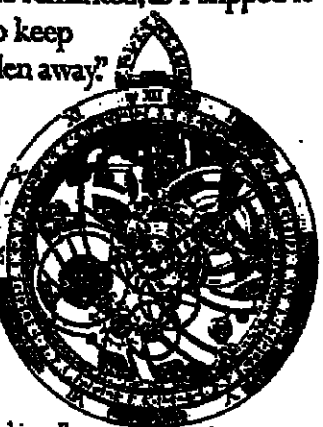
The symmetry of the sixty diamonds encircling the intricately hand-carved movement, punctuating each minute with a sparkle of pure light. The miniature wheels within the transparent case, moving the hands in perfect motion. A delicate evolution of function into decoration.

"But what a shame," she remarked, as I slipped it into my pocket, "to have to keep something so beautiful hidden away."

Perhaps she has yet to discover that pleasure in ownership can come as much from private contemplation as public display.

Audemars Piguet

Illustrated brochure and list of appointed jewellers is available from Audemars Piguet, 71 Saffron Hill, London EC3N 8RS.



A great Dame on wine and song

Lunch with Dame Joan Sutherland yesterday, earlier in the day, had begun her role in *Il Trovatore*, which is to be revived at Covent Garden from December 10. We drank Perrier water, which not unnaturally led to a discussion on drink. Dame Joan confiding that she is something of a connoisseur of fine wines, white especially.

In fact, it is one of the grounds on which she judges opera houses. It follows that San Francisco, Buenos Aires and Palermo (Teatro Massimo) are top of her list. The acoustics are good, San Francisco comes in the Napa Valley for the best Californian wines, Palermo is convenient for Corvo, and BA for Chilean white. At her home in Montreux, Switzerland, she and her husband, Richard Bonynge, the conductor, have a good cellar featuring Swiss wines.

We did talk about opera but Dame Joan was more excited by the approaching opening at the Garden or her son Adam's forthcoming marriage in Australia after Christmas. "I hope I'll be a grandmother fairly quick," she said blithely. Like a good Australian, Adam, a hotel manager, is doing things upside-down, and having his honeymoon now, before the wedding.

Trovatore, which Dame Joan described as a "marvellous old piece," is actually fairly new for her — she has done only six performances before. She says she

THE TIMES DIARY

There may be those who will carp about the cost but it was surely good to see the RAF mount an elaborate operation to save the life of a former member, Eric Williams, author of *The Wooden Horse*, the story of his escape from a POW camp, using the horse as cover for a tunnel.

Seventy-year-old Williams was taken seriously ill at Sirm, a tiny island in the eastern Aegean, while he and his wife Sibyl were laying out their yacht for the winter. In search of adequate medical help, Sibyl sailed the yacht across the Aegean in gale-force winds, ending

sometimes finds remembering her words a problem these days, but wants to do parts like Anna Bolena, which she has never had a chance to do. She has not done so, which she has not done so. She then dashed off for a fitting, fretting about whether her costumes would match her hair. Apparently, "auburn" means different things to different hairdressers these days and she is never sure exactly what shade she will be. I sloped off for a white wine.

Silent Princess

The first biography of the Princess of Wales is to appear next May, anticipating by one month a certain happy event. It obviously

up first in a hospital in Naples, then in Athens. When doctors there found that Eric probably needed a new heart, Mr Sir John Sutherland, the British Ambassador in Athens, alerted the RAF. Wing Commander Colin Bridger, an air force physician, flew in from the base hospital in Cyprus and checked whether Eric was fit enough to be flown home.

Yesterday an RAF Hercules from Cyprus completed a medical team on board *flam* to Athens to take the Williamses and the doctor to Brize Norton airfield near Oxford, so that Eric could be taken last night by ambulance to Radcliffe cardiac hospital.

will not be a long book but even so its author, journalist Penny Junor, is having a problem getting material. She alleges "a wall of silence and uncooperativeness put up by the palace" and suspects that even commentators associated with the Princess's family have had instructions to keep their mouths shut, with workers on the Spencer estate at Althorpe in Northamptonshire having to sign forms binding them to secrecy.

For my part I'm rather glad that mum appears to be the word in all matters relating to the Princess. A much more interesting question is how Mr Junor, daughter of J.J., editor of the *Sunday Express*, hopes to get an entire book out of a 20-year-old woman. I think we should be told.



Quiet labours

I hear from Westminster that Labour Party whips have just finished a meeting at the back door of their offices in the House of Commons — which just happens to be next to the front entrance of the SDP whips' den. The Labour chiefs claim that noise from their new neighbour has necessitated this drastic action, but I wonder. Surely the gleaming Social Democrats never allow themselves more than a moderate chuckle over their latest recruit? I suspect the Opposition whips are really more

anxious to keep in the sounds of their own wrangling.

Brief luck

A solicitor friend in London was recently seeking help with a defence. Looking through the papers the solicitor noticed it was the fourth time the man had been charged with the offence of theft. He had been acquitted each time before.

"What's wrong with your usual solicitor?" he said. "He seems perfectly capable."

"Oh, yes," was the reply. "But his luck can't be."

A record?

I read in the current issue of *Cosmopolitan* the record, rather able fact that "in Britain someone buys a Barry Manilow album every 37 seconds". It is also the case that someone dies every 15 seconds but I understand the two events are not related.

Peter Watson



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 0-837 1234

LORD SCARMAN'S REPORT

Bafflement followed the Brixton and other riots of the summer. Why there, why then? The ferocity of the outburst and the complexity of its causes darkened the search for remedies. The appointment of Lord Scarman to inquire and recommend seemed like a promise of illumination. His reputation, a wise and humane judge, the width of the evidential net he cast, and the skilful sense of theatre he brought to the public proceedings may have raised unrealistic expectations. His report is commendably judicious. It provides a clear account of the events at Brixton and disentangles responsibility for them. It disposes of the wilder allegations against police and agitators. It makes balanced observations on the social and economic background to the riots and about the lines that policy might take. It is a great help. But it could not, and it has not, come up with instructions either for politicians or for the general public on how to prevent riots.

Lord Scarman was conducting a judicial inquiry under the Police Act of 1964. Not surprisingly the most cogent parts of his report concern policing and his firmest recommendations are in that area. They concern the changing relationship between the police and the community they serve; longer and better training, with emphasis on the understanding of ethnic minority cultures; the exclusion of racially prejudiced recruits and the elimination from the force of anyone who behaves in that way; the recruitment of more blacks; and an independent element in police complaints procedure.

There is no justification whatever for throwing the word "whitewash" at the report, as Mr. Darcus Howe does on the facing page. Lord Scarman is critic of some of the methods and decisions in the policing of Brixton and elsewhere that were reviewed by his inquiry. He acknowledges the existence and emphasizes the disproportionately bad effect of instances of harassment and discrimination by policemen. But all this he does in careful language and with respect for the evidence. The gravity with which he views it is to be measured not in decibels but by the reach of his recommendations for changes in police practice. It is this which community leaders concerned with policing should fasten on.

Public order was at the centre of Lord Scarman's field of inquiry and policing by consent is at the centre of his field of vision. He puts a powerful shoulder to the wheel of community policing. He finds one of the causes for the outbreak at Brixton the collapse of the community/policing liaison arrangements, and another in the absence of consultation with community leaders before embarking on major police operations in the district. Lord Scarman wants statutory consultation, extending it in the provinces

where it already exists and introducing it in London where it does not. And he wants to go beyond the quartermastering and general policy of present consultations practice to embrace operational matters. In London he rightly holds that the Home Secretary should remain in the "police authority", but he proposes arrangements for statutory consultation at borough and police district level.

The importance of these proposals is not so much in the framework provided as in the attitude to policing that the framework is meant to facilitate and encourage. It is a practical expression of the principle that policing is best achieved by consent of the local community and it is means of giving the representatives of the community a say in how it shall be policed. The police themselves must become enamoured of that approach if the proposal is to be any use. Legislation cannot of itself make a reality of consultation.

Like others before him Lord Scarman is struck by the public loss of confidence in the procedures for investigating complaints against the police. He is of the opinion that confidence will not be restored short of taking the investigation as well as the adjudication of complaints out of the hands of the police. This is a minefield of good intentions. The experience with the Police Complaints Board, a bureaucratic creation of Mr. Roy Jenkins, does not support Lord Scarman's conclusion. He underestimates the practical difficulties of getting together a staff of investigators capable of doing that job without incurring quite disproportionate expenditure of money and resources for questionable results. Nothing should be done to weaken investigation nor to reduce the disciplinary powers of a chief executive. The best answer to public anxiety is to strengthen lay scrutiny of the results of investigation: a series of ombudsmen would be preferable to the cumbersome procedures which might spring from Lord Scarman's restrained advocacy.

One omission from this part of his report detracts from the value of Lord Scarman's recommendations, though it does not necessarily invalidate them. Nowhere does he consider public violence as something calling for investigation and control not only in relation to grievances that may lie behind it, but as a social phenomenon in its own right. This leads to neglect of one dimension of the problem facing both police and community. It seems also to have coloured Lord Scarman's consideration of the idea of a modernized riot act. He discounts it on the grounds that the police already have adequate powers of arrest, and that the difficulty of marshalling evidence of an offence against public order, though real, is a difficulty common and proper to the prosecution in criminal matters. Yet if a riot is in progress the offence

is, or ought to be, being in on it. No one should be able to feel that he can join in with impunity provided no further offence can be proved against him.

As the report fans out from the subject of policing to comment on the social, economic and administrative context in which the rioting occurred and to consider the cause and cure of racial disadvantage the observations become more general. Lord Scarman deliberately treads warily for he is outside his province whether as a judge or as someone appointed to conduct a public inquiry. He is in the area of public policy and political priorities. His prudence is understandable: a risk is taken with the independence of the judiciary every time a judge is drafted into the cockpit of controversy. It is a fashion we might question and only Lord Scarman's renowned integrity has preserved him through Ulster, Red Lion Square, Grinwick and now Brixton. A price is paid here, in the piousness with which Lord Scarman discusses the threat of racial disadvantage to the coherence of society. He notes that if the balance is to be redressed, "a positive, positive discrimination is required. But it is not clear whether he is aware that positive discrimination should take the form of spending programmes for identified areas or categories of citizen, which is the form it has taken up to now, or whether he is among those who think it should be extended to positive discrimination between individuals on the basis of colour, in such matters as recruitment, promotion and educational selection, which is likely to be both more effective and more widely resented.

The value in this part of Lord Scarman's report — and despite one's reservations it is a very real value — lies in the sense of urgency he brings to his analysis and the convincing manner in which he describes the predicament. The problems were present and known before this spring and summer. The kind of measures that require to be taken have now been well laid out. This government and its predecessors have done too little to redress racial disadvantages, and this government certainly has said too little that might contribute to the removal of a sense of black insecurity.

Ministers must lead both in the allocation of resources and where they have the opportunity to set an example in a code of employment and through patronage over appointments. But the responsibility goes right through the community, and with the community the police which is its arm. Black and white elements make up the community: black and white racism pollute and poison it. The quality, and ultimately the safety, of society depends on black and white citizens working consciously to live in toleration together.

THE THIRD MAN

By his handling of Mr. Brezhnev's visit to Bonn, Herr Schmidt has established West Germany's claim to a pivotal role in east-west relations, thereby opening a fascinating new phase in postwar diplomacy. He will now be the invisible third man at the arms talks which start in Geneva next week. He will be the man whom each side must persuade of the reasonableness of its position, and through whom each may be tempted to put pressure on the other. If the talks run into trouble he will be the man best placed to mediate. Whether he actually does so is in some ways less important than the fact that he could.

To some extent this role has been thrust upon Herr Schmidt by the simple fact that his public is the most important of those that must be persuaded to accept the stationing of new weapons if the talks fail. But it is also significant that he himself chose to be the first western leader to release Mr. Brezhnev from the quarantine imposed after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. He took a risk in doing so because he might have been accused of disloyalty to the alliance, particularly as the Americans were already unhappy about his gas deal with the Russians, but the outcome of the visit shows more gain than loss.

By all accounts he spoke frankly to Mr. Brezhnev. He pointed out the damage that the invasion of Afghanistan has done to east-west relations, and even got a mention of that country into

the final communiqué, together with a significant acknowledgment that "crisis and conflict in various parts of the world not only concern the affected states but can also have negative effects on the whole international situation". By receiving Mr. Brezhnev, he has somewhat undercut western attempts to establish just this linkage between the invasion of Afghanistan and east-west relations as a whole, but the Americans have moved in the same direction by agreeing to negotiate on arms control. The main thing is that Herr Schmidt did not let the issue drop, and has kept open the possibility of future linkage.

Above all he mined no words on the build-up of Soviet nuclear weapons and firmly rejected Mr. Brezhnev's offer of a moratorium that would keep existing Soviet missiles in place while stopping the deployment of Nato's response. Better still, he made it very clear to the Russians that the Nato missiles will in fact be deployed if no agreement is reached, and that even a change of government in West Germany would not alter this. He is in a stronger position to say this because he will not have to face a party vote on the subject in the spring. If the Russians are now persuaded, and observers in Bonn believe they are, it opens up more hope for the negotiations. Had the Russians continued to speculate that the protest movements might prevent deployment they would have been under very little

pressure to negotiate seriously. Now, if they really want to reduce nuclear weaponry in Europe, they must see that negotiation is the only way of doing so.

But the Russian leaders must also be persuaded that President Reagan wants serious negotiations. They have been upset and confused by the changes in American policy in recent years, by the failure to ratify the Salt II treaty, and by the election rhetoric of Mr. Reagan. They are old men with limited capacity to cope with change or indeed to understand any foreign countries. When west Europeans are confused by Washington the Kremlin must be several times more confused. Here again, Herr Schmidt has tried to step in as interpreter to assure the Russians that the American administration is now truly committed to negotiations.

This new and powerful role for Germany will take some getting used to, and is not without dangers. It would be better if the two super powers could understand each other without an interpreter. Failing that, it might be better to have a European interpreter, without quite such specific national interests at stake. However, for the moment Herr Schmidt is doing useful work in a role which has opened up largely because of problems in communications between the super powers. But he will need to take care, since a position in the middle could easily be misinterpreted as the beginnings of West German equivocation.

Industrial view of glittering prizes

From the Chairman of Becham Products and others

Sir, Although drawn from diverse sections of industry, we are united in urging the Government not to be deflected from its broad strategy against inflation by the rising volume of often partisan opposition.

Mrs. Thatcher's task has already been made more difficult by the repeated failure of various "prime Ministers, both Labour and Conservative, to persevere against inflation when the going got rough — or the next election approached. The result was to accommodate ever more rapidly rising wages and other costs, leading to mounting levels of unemployment, with no lasting gain in more efficient use of resources. If the necessary adaptation in Government and industry is again called off, it will eventually prove even more uncomfortable and costly.

The Government's resolute stand since 1979, alas against the background of the worst world recession since the war, has compelled even the most lagging management and workers to confront the long-neglected reality that we all have to earn our own living in a tough competitive world. The positive result is the shedding of decades of industrial bad habits. In particular, industry has been forced by the discipline of the market place to tackle slack working arrangements which have been encouraged by many trade union leaders in a permissive climate of inflationary full employment and connived at by some managements for fear of risking industrial disruption.

At grievous cost, British industry is now being prepared to take advantage of the recovery in effective demand as costs come down and existing money goes further in buying more goods and services. There are two lessons. One for the Government and the other for industry.

For the crisis of the past, backed by clear evidence, is that increased monetary demand in the name of "reflation" would be more likely to damage this hard-won advance by inflating costs and prices rather than to stimulate output and employment. The lesson for the Government is that the competitive discipline which has compelled industry to become more efficient does not touch the over-manning and waste in swollen central and local bureaucracies

or nationalized monopolies, including "free" social services such as education and the NHS.

As a result of this imbalance the costs of private industry and employment are still burdened by excessive rates and taxes and the exorbitant prices of protected public corporations. Indeed, if nationalized industries had done as well as competitive industry in reducing labour and other costs, the present rate of inflation would already be nearer half the latest figure of 11.7 per cent. Readers may ponder what a tonic effect such a cut in average price rises would have in raising sales at home and abroad so as to increase employment while at the same time abating pressure for wage demands unearned by higher output.

These are the further glittering prizes the Government could now win for us all by new measures to curb public spending and to expose state monopolies and welfare services to the invigorating winds of competition. The improvement in British Steel shows this healthy process at work. Even the Government's critics might raise a cheer if more extensive denationalization in fuel and transport freed production investment on these vital industries from the voodoo of the PSBR.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD HALSTEAD, (Bechams),
BASIL COLLINS, (Cadbury Schweppes),
GEORGE CATTELL, (FMC),
JAMES HANSON, (Hanson Trust),
ARNOLD HALL, (Hawker Siddeley),
INCHCAPE, (Inchcapes),
NEVILLE BOWMAN-SHAU, (Lancaster),
MALCOLM MCALPINE, (McAlpine Partners),
D. I. ALLPORT, (Metal Box),
IAN WESTON-SMITH, (Morgan Crucible),
NICHARD PUTTICK, (Taylor Woodrow),
JAMES DUNCAN, (Transport Development),
CHARLES TIDBURY, (Whitbread),
REGINALD SMITH, (Wimpey),
PHILIP DUNKELEY, (Mitchell Canning),
STANLEY FIELD, (William Baird),
MARSH, (Becham House, Brentford, Middlesex),
November 25.

Women in politics

From Mrs R. P. Moore

Sir, Dr. Summerskill's article in today's Times (November 24) on women in politics recalls the struggle to increase the influence of women in Parliament.

We too, have a copy of the photograph of the growing number of women members, which includes my aunt, Margaret Wintingham, who took her seat 60 years ago this year. She was ever keen to further women's intrusion into the man's world of politics, and in 1921 tried to persuade the Government to introduce a Bill to enable peeresses to sit in the House of Lords, something they were unable to do until 1958 as

life peers or 1963 as hereditary peeresses.

In fact only 11 of the 26 women in the photograph were members when it was taken in 1944; the others had been in Parliament at different periods since 1919. Our sitting members, including Ellen Wilkinson, were not in the photograph.

In 1944 there were 15 women members in all. The total climbed to 29 in 1964, but has now dropped to 19, although some increase may be imminent.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA M. W. MOORE,
15 Parkgate Avenue,
Hayley Wood,
Barnet,
Hertfordshire.

Judges and parole

From Sir George Waller

Sir, I write to you to prevent as soon as possible a misapprehension arising from the same leading article in *The Times* (November 21), and a report in *The Sunday Times* (November 22) indicating that the Home Secretary's efforts to reduce the prison population are being thwarted by judges. I am writing because I originally proposed (in a speech to the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders in 1980) that the parole threshold should be reduced below 18 months, and because that proposal was quoted in the Home Office Review of Parole in May of this year and then rejected in favour of a proposal for universal release for the middle third of sentences under 18 months.

To provide automatic release in every case performs the court that the effect of its sentence will be divided by three, and there is a prospect of cases where the offender will not be free for a certain time. Inevitably a longer

sentence will be passed and the proposal will be self-defeating.

If, however, release is discretionary the court must assume that the offender with whom it is dealing may not be released until the end of his sentence (subject to remission). Accordingly the tendency to increase the sentence will be resisted, as it is over the whole existing range of parole.

I realise that there are difficulties in implementing such a scheme, but against the background of the present prison population it may be possible to overcome them.

Finally, I think it is only fair to point out that judges have borne in mind the Home Secretary's warning, and speaking as a member of the Court of Appeal sentences appear on the whole to be shorter than they were two years ago.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE S. WALLER,
Hatch Lane,
Kingley Green,
Haslemere,
Surrey,
November 23

Premenstrual problems

From Dr Anthony Clare

Sir, In the light of the recent court decision on the subject of your medical and legal correspondents (November 12) concerning premenstrual tension are welcome. No consistent biochemical or hormonal abnormality has been discovered. There is considerable controversy over the likely cause and most appropriate treatment. Some would doubt the existence of the condition.

Popular claims are made concerning the susceptibility of women in the premenstrual phase to driving accidents, poor examination performance, impaired sporting activity and a host of physical and psychological hazards, but these claims are confounded by the fact that their scientific foundations are for the most part thoroughly suspect.

However, recent research involving over 500 women, undertaken by this unit and funded by the DHSS, has revealed that the great majority of women do not notice some degree of physical, psychological and/or behavioural change during the premenstrual phase. The important point, however, is that the extent to which the individual woman regards these subjective experiences as normal, tolerable, a nuisance or as symptoms warranting medical intervention depends not merely on her knowledge and the severity of

her symptoms but also on her social and personal circumstances and her psychological health.

In the light of such a finding, it would seem unwise to apply the label of disease to a woman who merely identifies such changes (Not all changes, incidentally, are necessarily negative — on certain psychological tests performance is actually enhanced during this phase).

What is needed, if future discussions of the subject, legal and otherwise, are to be illuminated by fact rather than by speculation, is research of an appropriate standard and subtlety. Such research would involve more than merely a search for this or that biological abnormality and would aim to clarify the psychological and social factors which help turn a ubiquitous experience into pathology.

In the absence of such research we will remain at the mercy of particular opinions, and in particular the notion of women as the products and the prisoners of their reproductive system, a notion which physicians and others a century ago exploited to all manner of female "dependencies".

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY W. CLARE,
General Practice Research Unit,
Institute of Psychiatry,
University of London,
Denmark Hill, SE5.

Putting heart into Ulster community

From Mr David Smyth

Sir, I write as a person who lives in County Down, near Newtownards, where the recent unfortunate loyalist show of strength took place. I also write as a former member of the Conservative Research Department who had a short and not successful career as a Unionist candidate for the Westminster seat now held by Mr John McQuade MP.

There must be many good and loyal British citizens who have in the past supported Ulster's Unionist cause but who are presently appalled by the behaviour in Parliament of some of those who profess to love the Union. Such persons must be grievously distressed by television film of a rally which had some of the appearance of a thirties party rally in Germany. It would be very easy for those who have supported us in the past to draw similar analogies and to say, "Well, if that is loyalty then what can rebellion be?"

Yet such a view, although understandable, would not be just. I do not intend to apologise for those who wear masks to hide their faces or who break the law by donning the apparel of paramilitarism. Such behaviour is an assault on the rule of law. It may have tragic repercussions both here and in England. But there are some factors which should be considered before our friends feel compelled to condemn us.

Ulster's political vacuum is not her own creation and those Westminster politicians who are prone to wring their hands in frustration at Ulster's present political leadership would do well to remember this. Unionist opinion has been terribly and perhaps irrevocably split. This has been largely due to the deliberate policy pursued by Westminster governments.

The prorogation of the Northern Ireland Parliament by Mr Heath was the obvious fruit of such policy. The result was neither justifiable nor democratic. Its rationale was expressed as "breaking the mould of Northern Ireland politics". In reality it was intended to hasten the fragmentation of a majority party. It also, incidentally, had the effect of rendering the administration once described by your paper as "reasonably humane and reasonably efficient". It was the greatest blow to stability and the rule of law that Northern Ireland has suffered.

Wage-inflation tax

From Professor Richard Layard

Sir, There is a common fallacy over the wage-inflation tax proposal, reiterated by David Blake (October 29). Under the proposal a firm that inflates its wages at the average rate will receive as much in rebate as it pays in tax. Therefore, the argument goes, the scheme cannot have affected its behaviour.

This logic is quite wrong. For the amount of tax which a firm pays depends entirely on its rate of wage increase, while the amount of rebate which it gets does not. Thus the firm can influence its tax liability, but has little influence on its rebate.

If the tax rate is 100 per cent, a firm that pays its workers £1 less saves itself £2, compared with £1 if there were no tax. It therefore has a much more powerful incentive to resist wage claims. In the same way, fines for speeding discourage speed, even though the driver who pays the average fine gets his money back in lower taxes and is no worse off because of the law against speeding.

The inflation tax would encourage each firm (or employers' federation) to pay less, even if it

Secondly, any community has its negative elements, its corner boys and hard men. No one in Britain after recent events can be self-righteous in this respect. Ordinarily these elements are not greatly troubled by issues of politics. In the stability that is still Britain only issues of race and immediate material deprivation occasionally catch their voluble imagination. This is not so in Ulster.

Ulster is a community that has one basic political issue — its survival. It has suffered a decade of sectarian violence principally directed against that survival, and it also has had to weather the hostility of the non-violent political forces of Irish nationalism. Despite this we have had negative response from a weak Government that is both removed from any real accountability to, or understanding of, the people for whose peace, order and good government it is responsible.

There is one powerful example of this. On taking office as Secretary of State, Mr Prior made it clear that the major concern of his Government was the removal of the hunger strike. He indicated that this problem was an international one. His ministers in pursuit of this concern hastened to the Maze Prison to talk to the hunger strikers.

At the time of these visits killings by the comrades-in-arms of those hunger strikers were continuing. Since the ending of the hunger strike such killings have decreased. Of course, the hunger strike was a high priority for the British Government; it was, however, an exceedingly low priority for those Ulstermen who were dying in support of their beliefs. Their priority was staying alive.

In these circumstances, is it any wonder that responsible people consort with the irresponsible? If Mr Prior is not to go down in history as the Secretary of State who presided over the total collapse of stability in Ulster then he somehow must convince and continue to convince the majority of reasonable Ulster Protestants and Catholics that vigilantes are a concession to lawlessness and a defeat for the rule of law. He has to give heart back to a gravely neglected community. He can only do that by showing that his Government has the will to make its only priority the defeat of terrorism.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SMYTH,
Comber, County Down.

thought all other firms would pay the same. But firms know that other firms will respond too, and this in turn will encourage them to press down still more.

The scheme will also lead to lower union wage claims. For a large wage increase will now cost the employer more and thus make him more likely to cut employment. The union will be correspondingly more cautious in pushing their luck.

Some people, like David Blake, have claimed that "the scheme has nothing to contribute to the problem of public sector pay". But, if compensation is an argument in public sector pay, any scheme which helps in the private sector must indirectly help in the public sector. In addition, the tax would have a direct effect in the nationalized industries and local government, provided cash limits were not relaxed to pay for the tax, but the existence of an economy-wide norm could surely help to reduce the level of settlements.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LAYARD,
Morrison School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.

University of Zimbabwe

From Lord Ashby, FRS, and others

Sir, On September 8 last Professor Walter Kamba, a distinguished and humane international scholar, was installed as the first local-born Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe, an institution which, from its origins in 1955 as the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and throughout the recent tribulations, has done so much for multiracial higher education in Central Africa.

In earlier days the universities of London and Birmingham, through their schemes of special relationship, the Inter-University Council, and the Association of Commonwealth Universities, all helped to lay the sound foundations on which the university is built. These bodies, and the many graduates, former staff and its other friends in Africa and in Britain, are surely delighted that the University of Zimbabwe has achieved the aim which all shared, by emerging as a fully fledged Commonwealth university of international standing firmly rooted in the soil of an independent Zimbabwe.

We will follow its progress with interest and affection, and wish it well. The university, as a key local instrument of Zimbabwean development, seems assured of firm support from the Prime Minister, Mr. Mugabe, in facing the challenge of the new conditions in Zimbabwe. Its determination to meet that and to do so effectively and without loss of quality is inherent in Professor Kamba's vision of its future in providing for his country's needs in teaching, research and objective policy advice; and in maintaining international standards of scholarship. It is profoundly to be hoped that the British Government, whatever the other calls on its aid funds, will take positive steps in conjunction with the Government of Zimbabwe and the British Council to ensure the develop-

ment of further constructive contacts and programmes of collaboration between the University of Zimbabwe and British universities which will be of great benefit to all concerned in every possible way.

Yours faithfully,
ASHBY,
J. B. BUTTERWORTH,
ANASTASIOS,
CHRISTODOULOU,
CHRISTOPHER COX,
RICHARD GRIFFITHS,
HUNTER OF NEWINGTON,
C. T. INGOLD,
ALEX MCKERRISON,
MORRIS OF GLOSMERE,
ADAM NEVILLE,
ALBERT E. SLOMAN,
ROBERT STEEL,
J. R. STEWART,
John Foster House,
36 Gordon Square, WC1.

Subject inverted

From Dr A.G. Cohen

Sir, I was rather confused by the two brief excerpts of musical scores in *The Times* of November 24. The idea, I am sure, was to contrast the "old and new" styles of the distinguished Polish composer, Krzysztof Penderecki.

Twenty years ago, his *Devils of Loudun* was considered avant garde, whereas his recent *Paradise Lost* sounds more orthodox — at least in the concert hall it sounds more orthodox. In its upside-down version in *The Times*, it sounds more avant-garde!

Yours faithfully,
ALAN G. COHEN,
110 Willow Avenue,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham,
November 24.

From Mr D. C. Cursons
Sir, Does standing Penderecki's *Paradise Lost* on its head constitute political or social comment? Yours faithfully,
D. C. CURSONS,
8 York Terrace,
Cambridge.

Far be it from Sony to belittle the enormous skill, dedication and perseverance it takes to get to the top of Mount Everest.

But compared to what it takes to become an Authorised Sony Dealer, an Everest expedition is a bit of a picnic.

Before a dealer can be even remotely considered by Sony, his reputation among his customers has to be virtually immaculate.

If there are any serious complaints about him, or his sales assistants, or his service engineers, his career as a Sony dealer ends before it's begun.

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But the people who are really put through the mill are a dealer's service engineers.

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Once a dealer has downed his last drop of celebratory champagne, he discovers that becoming an Authorised Sony Dealer is child's play compared to remaining one.

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And if you have any call on the Sony guarantee, he knows he's got to give you top priority.

The most important rule for an Authorised Sony Dealer though, concerns where he gets his Sony products from.

There are many dealers who are not authorised to sell Sony, who obtain their Sony supplies from rather doubtful sources.

For example, Sony TV sets and home videos sneaked in from other countries, and amateurishly adapted for UK use by untrained people.

With an Authorised Sony Dealer, however, you know where your Sony has come from.

From Sony. To you.



He wouldn't have found it so easy to become a Sony dealer.

For details of your Authorised Sony Dealers or for information on Sony products, please contact Sony (UK) Limited, Box T3, Pyrene House, Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex, TW16 7AT. Tel: Sunbury 80411.

هكذا آمن النجمل

Selling skis to Austria page 21

Business News

THE TIMES Thursday November 26 1981

What kind of recovery? page 21

Mobil raises stakes in Marathon bid

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Nov 25

The bidding war for Marathon Oil began in earnest today as Mobil Oil, the unwanted suitor, raised its offer and US Steel, the other candidate, indicated to Wall Street that it too would increase its bid.

Publicly, US Steel officials declined to comment on the news that Mobil has raised its offer from \$85 a share to \$125 a share for 51 per cent of the Marathon outstanding share.

But privately, US Steel executives conferred with bankers and investment advisers about raising their current offer of \$125 a share for Marathon.

"It looks like US Steel will come in with a new, higher bid in the next week or so," one analyst said.

Meanwhile, Mobil has fresh hope, based on new legal advice, that there is a way to circumvent antitrust problems and fashion a merger proposal which has a good chance of being approved by the Federal Trade Commission.

Mobil has been told by its legal advisers that the United States Government is very likely to challenge its bid for Marathon on antitrust grounds but that the case can still be won if Mobil agrees to sell off certain Marathon properties, according to attorneys close to the case.

The trade commission will most certainly challenge the merger on grounds that it will increase concentration in the oil industry and lessen competition largely by shutting off supplies to a large number of independent marketing companies now supplied by Marathon, the attorneys said.

Mobil has been told it can satisfy the bulk of these concerns by contractually arranging for the continued sale of petrol to the independents as part of the merger agreement. Alternatively, it can simply sell Marathon's marketing arm, thus eliminating the main antitrust concern.

It is partly because of Mobil's renewed belief it can win over the United States government that the oil company has decided to raise its bid, and keep on bidding, to buy Marathon.

Mobil wants the Ohio-based oil company because of its large American oil reserves concentrated in West Texas, where Marathon owns more than 10 per cent of the huge Yates field, the second largest domestic field, outranked only by Prudhoe Bay in Alaska.

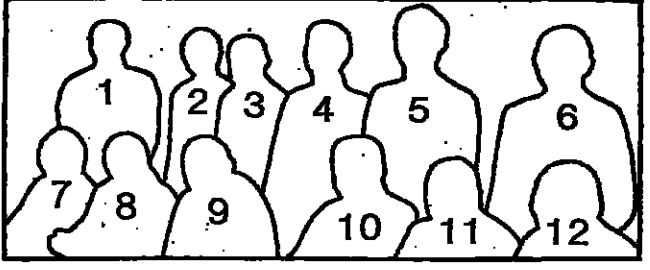
This is the reason Mobil sought and won a court order for a review of an option Marathon granted United States Steel its preferred suitor, to buy its interest in the Yates field.

As part of its agreement with United States Steel, Marathon agreed to discontinue all other sales by prearranging the sale of its most valuable asset.

But Mobil does not plan to sit back quietly and let this happen—a fact underscored by the announcement today that it has acquired slightly less than \$15m worth of United States Steel stock.



The team which helps Lowry create a peaceful industrial picture



This is a rare picture of the governing body of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, taken for *The Times*, at its monthly meeting in London yesterday.

The members, numbers refer to the key on the left, are: 1, Professor Laurence Hunter, professor of applied economics at Glasgow University; 2, Mr John Monks, head of the TUC's education and industrial relations department; 3, Mr Leslie Wood, general secretary of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians; 4, Mr David Richardson, secretary of ACAS; 5, Mr Clifford Rose, member for personnel, British Railways Board; 6, Mr Dennis Boyd, ACAS' chief conciliation officer; 7, Professor Dorothy Wedderburn, principal of Bedford College, London, and an expert in industrial sociology; 8, Sir John Royd, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and a former Labour Party chairman; 9, Mr Pat Lowry, ACAS council chairman and former industrial relations director of the ICI Group; 10, Mr Harold Deville, executive deputy chairman of British Insulated Callender's Cables, and a member of the ICI council; 11, Professor Benjamin Roberts, professor of industrial relations at the London School of Economics and author with others of a history of the TUC; and 12, Mr Alan Swinden, director of Kingston Polytechnic Management Centre and Director of the Institute of Manpower Studies.

Bank accepts interest rates may fall 1/2pc

By David Blake and Frances Williams

A half point cut in bank base rates would not be opposed by the monetary authorities in spite of their determination to keep a tight grip on the money supply. There is growing surprise on the official side that clearing banks have not brought their base rates down in the past 10 days, something which present money market rates would allow them to do.

The Government remains convinced that problems in the growth of the money supply make any big drop in money market rates or other interest rates impossible at present. This is in spite of the fact that interest rates in the United States, which were one of the prime forces behind the last rise in British rates, have come down sharply in recent weeks.

But this determination to use interest rates to keep money supply under control does not mean that the authorities feel that there is no room for base rate cuts.

The authorities, through the Bank of England, have played a key role in setting the level of money market rates in recent weeks. These are thought to point to room for a small cut in base rates, though probably not as much as a full point.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, last week received a signal from the Bank of England against an easing of interest rates when he gave evidence to the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee. Sir Geoffrey indicated a change in its stance when he gave evidence on Monday, but he did point out that there have been some signs of interest rates coming down.

One factor which complicates the position for the Government is that domestic and international factors are pointing in different directions. American interest rates are falling sharply, suggesting that rates in Britain could go the same way.

Money market rates eased fractionally yesterday, with the Bank of England lowering its dealing rates for bills in open market operations by one-tenth of a point. But European dollar deposit rates also fell by up to a quarter of a point, further widening the differential between sterling and dollar rates.

The pound bounded ahead on the foreign exchange market, rising 1.25 cents to \$1.9310, its highest level since the end of June.

Energy costs threat to steel operations

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

British Steel's electric arc steelmaking operations in Sheffield were said yesterday to be in "very serious jeopardy" because of high energy costs and poor availability of high quality scrap.

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the loss-making state corporation, told the all-party Commons Select Committee on Industry and Trade that there were serious doubts about the future of the electric arc business. While the corporation had reduced energy consumption by 12 per cent this year, electricity charges remained 15 per cent higher than European levels.

The uncertainty facing the Sheffield operations, which produce high quality stainless and alloy steels, poses another major threat to employment in Britain's steel industry.

Currently suffering losses of more than £5m a week, BSC employs about 12,000 in the Sheffield area on steelmaking, rolling and forming processes. Private sector steelmakers, who Mr MacGregor said would also be facing serious difficulties, have almost exclusively adopted the electric arc steelmaking method, using high purity ferrous scrap as a feedstock.

BSC is expected to make a loss of £300m-£400m this year and has already shed 20,000 jobs in its current survival plan. Mr MacGregor confirmed that a further loss of 15,000 jobs to a total labour force of 91,500 would be a "manageable" target by July next year.

Yet another threat has come from pressure among American steel producers to ban allegedly "dumped" European steel imports. Uncertainty over the possibility of United States action has delayed submission of the latest BSC corporate plan to Whitehall.

Mr MacGregor told the committee that a loss of American business would cut BSC sales by up to 500,000 tonnes a year and the corporation would lose 10 per cent of its business. It was not possible to give an indication of the impact on jobs but a United States ban would force the corporation to "reorientate" those parts of the business affected.

For every percentage point drop in the volume of sales, the corporation lost about £40m, he said, and the likely loss caused by a United States ban could be about £300m a year.

The BSC chief added that an American ban on steel imports would cause a steel surplus in Europe which would have drastic effects on the market.

Mr MacGregor and his colleagues described them to the committee as the finest management team in Britain—continued to believe that higher prices are crucial to BSC's future success. He said: "I do hope that British industry has not become accustomed to living on subsidised steel."

But the corporation had not confined itself to raising prices to reduce costs. The British exercise in capacity reductions had been unique in Europe but Mr MacGregor denied that labour and plant cuts had gone too far.

Callard sale likely within a month

By Margaret Pagan

Arthur Guinness, the brewer, is holding talks with several parties for the sale of Callard & Bowser, its troubled confectionery subsidiary, which employs 1,186 people making nougat and toffee products.

A Guinness spokesman confirmed last night that it is trying to sell the group because C & B no longer fits in with its overall strategy. Last year, C & B made its first loss, of £300,000 on turnover of £17m. Talks have been going on with potential buyers for several weeks but no agreement is expected for three to four weeks. Redundancies are believed to be involved in the deal, but the spokesman was unable to confirm this.

Callard was bought by Guinness in 1953 as part of moves to diversify. Its factory was next door to Guinness's at Park Royal, West London but Callard, which employs 793 full-time staff, 243 part-time and 150 temporary, is now based in Halifax with another operation in Hayes, Middlesex. Activities were recently shifted as part of rationalization plans.

C & B made pre-tax profits of £700,000 in 1979 and £400,000 in 1978 but trading has been hit by the same problems, such as VAT increases, which have beset other sweetmakers.

On Tuesday, Barker & Dobson, the sweetmaker, announced a return to profits after five years of reorganization in its confectionery division.

Creditors call talks on Norton Warburg

By Lorna Bourke

Investors who lost money in the collapse of Norton Warburg, the financial adviser when the Bank's exchange control department closed in 1979, are being invited to a meeting to discuss action on compensation.

Mr John Mortimer, who lost £50,000 when the company failed in February, owing an estimated £9m, wants to form an action group to consider the possibility of compensating pensioners for up to 90 per cent of their losses established by the receivers. Some pensioners are not happy with this offer since their actual losses are around 20 to 30 per cent more than the official figures because many investments could not be traced.

The meeting will be held on December 5 at 10 am at the Royal Horseguards Hotel, in London. Mr Mortimer is a member of the committee of inspection set up to represent the investors' interests.

One big group of investors to lose money consisted of Bank of England pensioners and others made redundant when the Bank's exchange control department closed in 1979. The Bank allowed Norton Warburg executives to discuss investment with those about to retire or leave, and 20 Bank employees invested money.

The Bank has offered to consider the possibility of compensating pensioners for up to 90 per cent of their losses established by the receivers. Some pensioners are not happy with this offer since their actual losses are around 20 to 30 per cent more than the official figures because many investments could not be traced.

Stock Markets

FT Index	5262.2 up 6.2
FT 100s	64.70 up 0.58
FT All Share	310.41 up 3.04
Bergains	18,400

Sterling

\$ 1.9310 up 125 points
Index 51.2 up 0.4
New York: \$1.9345

Dollar

Index 105.6 down 0.4
DM 2.282 up 32 pts

Gold

\$ 410.25 up \$10.25
New York: \$412.40

Money

3mth sterling	14 1/4
3 mth Euro	\$ 12 1/4
6 mth Euro	\$ 12 1/4

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Anderson Strath	3p to 9 1/2p
Anglo Am Corp	25p to 67 1/2p
BAT Ind	4p to 25p
Bracken Mines	12p to 12 1/2p
Eleco Hldgs	5p to 7 1/2p
Elisberg Gold	31p to 14 1/2p
Grobid	4p to 13 1/2p
Kinross	53p to 61 1/4p
Pearl	12p to 13 1/2p
Pearl	12p to 13 1/2p
Rockware Grp	21p to 23 1/2p
Sentrust	31p to 41 1/4p
Unitech	12p to 20 1/2p
Vakfom	20p to 13 1/2p
Western Areas	25p to 21 1/2p

Falls

AB Electronics	3p to 12 1/2p
Baggeridge Brk	4p to 60p
Brook St Bureau	4p to 25p
Euromat	3p to 12 1/2p
De La Rue	31p to 67 1/2p
Dunlop Grp	5p to 48 1/2p
Elliot &	3p to 10 1/2p
Hewden A	4p to 14 1/2p
Kwik Save Disc	4p to 13 1/2p
Martin RF	10p to 28 1/2p
RHM	21p to 62 1/2p
Royal Ind	4p to 35p
Sedgwick	38p to 14 1/2p
Thorn EMI	5p to 44 1/2p
Trans Paper	3p to 21p

Architects to fix their own fees

Architects are to be allowed to fix their own fees, even though the Government has not yet ruled on the issue under competition law (Hugh Clayton writes).

Mr Owen Luder, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, said in London yesterday that the institute would scrap the mandatory scales on which charges were based.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission declared after an investigation four years ago that the mandatory system operated against the public interest by restricting competition. Mr Luder said that the institute had made recommendations about ways of meeting the commission's complaints 18 months ago, but ministers had not yet given any indication of their decision.

Burton profits

Burton Group, the clothing chain, raised pre-tax profits by 53 per cent to £14.5m in the year to August. Numbers employed fell from 12,400 to around 8,400 as a result of manufacturing closures and the sale of fringe interests. Freehold and long leasehold properties are said to be worth £60m more than their balance sheet value.

TODAY

Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (October, final); employment in the production industries (September); overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (September); work stoppages due to industrial disputes (October); and energy trends. Company results: Buckley's Brewery, Courtaulds, French Kier, SMO Group, Tunnel Holdings (all half-yearly).

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Tough line on Japan vans

Japanese motor industry leaders were yesterday presented with unequivocal demands from their British counterparts for a big reduction in exports of light commercial vehicles to the United Kingdom next year.

The British delegation, led by Mr Geoffrey Moore, president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, is believed to have adopted the toughest stance towards Japanese imports since the biannual talks between the two industries began in 1975.

The two days of discussions, held in London, end today with the issuing of a joint statement in which the Japanese are expected once again to reaffirm their "prudent" marketing policies for the United Kingdom. The British want the Japanese to cut, in particular, their share of the light van market from its present level of about 20 per cent to under 11 per cent.

COURT ACTION ON STEEL

The EEC Commission has opened court proceedings against Belgium for alleged illicit payments to Cockerill-Sambre, the country's loss-making steel company, a Commission spokesman said in Brussels.

The Belgian Government has been given two weeks to justify the payments.

He said its explanation does not satisfy the Commission, Belgium will be taken before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Under EEC regulations, state aid to Community industries must be approved by the Commission to ensure that it does not distort fair competition.

Office deal

Legal and General, the insurance group, has paid £10m to buy out the tenants' interests of Bankers Trust and Lloyds Bank in the City office block, Bucklebury House, Cannon Street, which it owns.

Two factories for Wales

A joint venture in carpet manufacturing will provide more than 200 jobs at two new factories at Crumlin, near Newport, South Wales.

Abington Carpets of Oxfordshire, has joined forces with Texturex, a subsidiary of Crown America, to set up a new company, Texturex Europe, which will manufacture nylon yarn at one of the factories.

The yarn will be supplied to the second factory to be built near by at Abington Carpets.

More job cuts

Another 206 jobs are being shed by Mr Robert Maxwell's BPC group which announced a first-half loss of £8m in the current year. The latest cuts mean the closure of Aldershot-based Gage and Polden book and magazine printing company.

At Peterborough, Perkins, the diesel engine maker, has announced 150 redundancies among production workers.

US car slump worsens

The three big United States car manufacturers yesterday reported their worst mid-November sales figures since 1959 and Mr Roger Smith, chairman of General Motors, declared that the industry faced catastrophic conditions which could mean the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs.

GM reported mid-November sales down 23 per cent from the same period last year, and Ford and Chrysler both reported sales down 24 per cent.

Mr Smith said labour costs were 30 per cent higher than those of Japanese competitors and declared: "We can't hope to compete with such a handicap."

He said to build a parts factory, employing about 200 people, near Marysville, Ohio.

Air discounts spread unlikely

Open discounting of airline tickets through high street travel agents at "bucket shop" prices is unlikely to become widespread, Mr Gordon Davidson, marketing director of British Caledonian Airways, told the Association of British Travel Agents in Phoenix, Arizona, yesterday.

He was commenting on the deal, announced here earlier this week, under which British Airways experimentally will make available a restricted number of discount tickets for some Far East destinations.

Such discounting was unlikely to extend beyond Far East routes, he added.

Mr Peter Green has been re-elected for a third term of office as chairman of Lloyd's, the London insurance market. Mr Brian Brennan and Mr Murray Lawrence were elected deputy chairmen.

BPM HOLDINGS plc RECESSION HITS PROFITS

The 38th Annual General Meeting of BPM Holdings plc was held on November 25th, 1981, in Birmingham.

The following are extracts from the circulated statement of the chairman, Sir Michael Clapham, KBE.

This time last year I warned that the newspaper cycle must be expected to continue its downward course. I did not foresee quite how steep the decline would be, or how much the less cyclical businesses which it had been our strategy to acquire would be hit by the worst recession for fifty years.

This struck the West Midlands with exceptional violence: unemployment in the region — in earlier recessions one of the least affected — rose to nearly 14% by the end of our financial year.

The fall in the average real income of West Midlandsers affected almost all parts of the Group's business. Most newspapers lost some circulation; the dailies were hit severely by the loss of situations vacant advertising and some of the general advertising, the latter also affecting the weeklies. Retailing was less profitable in the West Midlands though our latest retailing acquisition, David Mallow, did have a more profitable southern market. Group profits from publishing activities other than newspaper publishing contributed more than half, consequently remained at the low level reported at the half-year stage, totalling £2.8 million for the year compared with £3.7 million for 1979/80. The Board is proposing a final dividend of 16.71p, making a total for the year of 23.1p.

It is not however our intention to sit back and await the upturn of the cycle. Vigorous steps are being taken to pursue the less profitable areas, to enhance our earnings from the more profitable ones, and to reduce administrative costs.

We have intensified our efforts to contain the costs associated with The Birmingham Post, and this has meant that our journalists have had to be prepared and will need in the future to be even more prepared to combine their efforts and resources in the service of both publications.

West Midlands Press Limited, which was early in the field with computerised typesetting, is engaged in a programme of modernising this equipment. London and Westminster Newspapers Limited has increased the area covered by its publications, adding four new titles. ABC Weekly Advertiser Limited was able to increase its profits, particularly as a result of the expansion of its leaflet distribution business.

Retailing profits exceeded £1 million for the first time but the inclusion of David Mallow & Co. Ltd, acquired by its purchase in August 1980, more than accounted for the increase in last year. T. Dillon & Company Limited was hit by the recession in the West Midlands and, to a lesser extent, in the Manchester area. Supercards Limited enjoyed a successful Christmas as ever, but found it impossible to maintain real volumes over the rest of the year.

West Midlands Envelopes Limited repeated its last year's profit of just over £120,000 in much more difficult market conditions.

Our Midlands Ideal Home Exhibition returned successfully to Bingley Hall in September 1980. However, the Boat and Caravan Show at the National Exhibition Centre in February 1981 suffered badly from the major recession in the boating industry.

I have mentioned the changes made by integrating the editorial staffs of the two main daily newspapers. On the production side, too, changes in practices and economies in manpower have been needed. My colleagues and I would like to give our thanks to all those whose co-operation has helped our business weather the storm.

The Report and Accounts were adopted.

BPM HOLDINGS plc
28 Colmore Circus, Birmingham B4 6AX

Shipping fraud trial may last 8 months

Copenhagen, November 25 — A lower court here tomorrow starts what promises to be at least eight months of litigation in the trial of Mr. Fredrik Odjell, the Norwegian shipowner and Mr. Max Sørensen, his Danish associate, on charges of defrauding some 1,500 Danish and Norwegian investors of about 60m kroner (£4.7m).

Charged, too, are two Danish certified auditors who signed the accounts of a Danish-registered company through which Mr. Odjell and Mr. Sørensen handled the sale of shares in nine freighters to be operated by a limited partnership association called Scandinavian Partner Ship (SPS).

Danish and Norwegian investors were attracted not only by a long-time financial gain, but also by the immediate benefit of advance income-tax cuts for depreciation of part of their investments. However, they ended up the losers because some of the ships were never built and the others became losses as Mr. Odjell's Frenco Shipping Company went bankrupt and failed to fulfill a promised 10-year bareboat charter of the SPS vessels.

The court has set aside two weekly sessions from now on until late next June to deal with the case which, in the event of conviction of Mr. Odjell and Mr. Sørensen, is also likely to pave the way for compensation claims from hundreds of investors.

The prosecution also asserts the investors were defrauded by prospectus and advertisements offering shares in a number of freighters ordered.

Both Mr. Odjell and Mr. Sørensen are expected to plead innocent to the charges of fraud tomorrow.

According to the 14-page charge sheet to be presented by the prosecution, the Scandinavian Partnership investors were defrauded in various ways, but generally the charge is that their money was not used for the stated purposes and that the investors were being misled.

In the prosecution's version shipbuilding contracts were cancelled without the knowledge of the investors, or financial reports of Danish-registered companies administering the SPS freighters disguised the flow of money and failed to take into account the shaky financial situation of Mr. Odjell's Frenco Shipping Company.

— AP.

Poles devalue to discourage buying sprees

By Roger Boyes

Poland is to devalue the zloty by between 10 and 20 per cent against a number of East European currencies. The move is being made after complaints from countries such as Hungary and Bulgaria that Polish tourists are buying up large quantities of food on short trips.

According to the PAP news agency, the National Bank of Poland is to devalue the zloty by almost 20 per cent against the Hungarian forint and the Bulgarian lev and by 10 per cent against the Soviet rouble and Czechoslovak crown.

The devaluation, it is understood, applies only to the tourist rate of exchange and not to trade exchanges within Comecon, the communist trading block. Western currencies will not be affected.

Although the devaluation may well help to boost tourism to Poland, its principal motive appears to be to discourage shopping sprees by Poles in neighbouring countries.

All the East European countries are reporting bad harvests and expect food shortages this winter.

East Germany recently admitted that its grain harvest would fall well short of the target of nine million tonnes and the Romanian grain crop is officially expected to be a little more than 20 million tonnes compared to a planned 23.7 million tonnes.

Bulgaria this month banned the export by foreign visitors of meat, sugar, cooking oil, flour and rice. A 300 per cent duty was imposed on tourists taking dairy products, canned foods,

tea and coffee out of the country.

These measures were aimed at such as Romania, where many foods are rationed, as at Poland. The Bulgarian measures have proved largely ineffective and pressure has mounted on Poland to control food purchases. Devaluation of the zloty is one of the few possibilities open to the Polish government.

Comecon has become increasingly anxious about the disruptive effect of the Polish crisis on the economic plans of Eastern Europe.

Poland, for example, is an important market for engineering products from East Germany, but these exports are having to be cut back. The sharp drop in Polish supplies of coal to the East Germans in return for being plugged into an electricity grid. The result has been frequent power black-outs along the border.

Both East Germany and Czechoslovakia have relatively strong economies and would normally have been able to cope with the difficulties imposed by the Polish turmoil. But the recession in the West means that export markets have been shrinking at a time when more hard currency is needed to buy food to compensate for poor harvests. East Germany, for example, is expected to spend at least \$400m (£228m) on grain imports over the next nine months.

Late bookings may save winter holiday trade

From Derek Harris, Phoenix, Arizona, Nov 25

A reported rush of late bookings might just save the winter sun package holiday industry from disaster this year, the Association of British Travel Agents convention was told here today.

Bookings have been down 20 per cent on last year. But with winter sports holidays holding up, winter packages may finish up only 5 per cent

down, Mr. Richard Gapper, managing director of Pickfords Travel, the largest high street travel agency network in Britain with 183 outlets, predicted.

"There has been a very noticeable increase in later winter bookings. The tour operators' aggressive pricing policies are also a factor," he said.

EEC chief talks of another 30s crisis

Geneva, Nov 25. — The European Economic Community is going through its worst economic crisis since the war, Mr. Paul Luyten, the Community's Belgian director for external relations, told the annual meeting of the 86 nations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade today.

Afterwards, he said at a news conference that a repeat of the world economic crises of the 1930s could not be excluded.

Mr. Luyten said that the Community's industrial production had fallen about 3.2 per cent over the last 12 months, the unemployment rate had risen from 6.2 to 8.3 per cent, representing nearly 10 million people, inflation continued at more than 12 per cent, the trade deficit remained at \$45,000m (£23,280m) and interest rates had reached an unprecedented 16 per cent.

Mr. Luyten added: "Around 200,000 extra jobs are being lost every month in the European Community because of bankruptcies and lay-offs."

Mr. Luyten said the present economic conditions required greater co-operation and more determined efforts by all G-6 members to uphold their trading principles.

At the news conference, Mr. Luyten said he was speaking in particular to Japan, but also to other member states, among them the oil exporters, who were now better off than the EEC. He stressed that the Community expects Japan to open its markets to more exports in view of its trade deficit with Japan of \$13,000m. He added: "We have been discussing this easing of Japanese import restrictions with them for more than four years, but things are moving extremely slowly."

He said the Community also faced increasing costs for financing unemployment. In Britain, one jobless person cost the Government \$13,000 (£6,725) a year, and 180 jobs were lost every day in the Community in one of the hardest-hit sectors, steel.

The meeting decided to call for a Ministerial Conference in Geneva next November.

October consumer prices in the European Community were up 1.1 per cent from September and 12.8 per cent from October 1980. Highest rate of inflation in the Community in October was registered in Greece, where prices rose by 2.6 per cent.



Oxford Street imports: of the single shoes displayed outside this London store, 17 were Brazilian, four French, two Italian and the rest British

Shoemakers on the rack

By Rupert Morris

Britain's shoemakers are appealing to the Government for urgent measures to support their industry which suffered job losses of 12 per cent in 1980 as a result of steadily rising imports and a steadily declining home market.

A report published today by the Footwear Economic Development Committee shows that sales in 1980 were the worst since the war. High sterling exchange rates have restricted exports and encouraged cheap imports, particularly from the Far East.

Pre-tax trading profits for footwear manufacturers were down to a lowest-recorded figure of 3 per cent in 1980, while employment slumped from 71,500 to 63,100.

However, the report says that, in comparison with some European footwear industries, the United Kingdom has been more resistant to foreign competition. Main recommendations are:

- The Government should press for fair trading practices by removing barriers to United Kingdom exports. Failing this, it should support an EEC policy of import controls.
- More effective and speedy action should be taken against dumping, including retaliation.
- The temporary short-time working scheme should be strengthened and continued.
- Safety footwear meeting appropriate national standards should be made mandatory in hazardous circumstances.

This last recommendation was prompted by a tendency on the part of companies to buy cheaper safety footwear from abroad which would not meet the standards the committee considers desirable. Imports of safety footwear rose from 56 per cent to 67 per cent last year. The report calls on unions to negotiate safety footwear agreements where possible.

The report also urges employers to give priority to investment in new technology, to improve marketing and maximize communications between manufacturers and retailers so the industry can respond quickly to market needs.

In an effort to encourage exports, the committee is

sending a representative to Germany next week. It has also elevated export marketing to the premier category in the industry's marketing award scheme.

With the home market depressed, export markets are seen as the main hope for the shoe industry's decline. The report shows that, whereas the United Kingdom has a 15 per cent share of EEC footwear production, its share of total EEC consumption was only 1.3 per cent in 1980.

The worst decline in sales in 1980 was of 24 per cent in women's sandals, where imports rose from 52 per cent to 62 per cent. In men's and children's footwear, rising imports were more or less cancelled out by exports, notably to Libya.

United Kingdom imports in 1980 came 40.8 per cent from the Far East of which more than half came from Hong Kong and South Korea — 36.4 per cent from the EEC — of which Italy, by far the biggest single source of imports, claimed 29.6 per cent — with 22 per cent coming from the rest of the world.

Employment Gazette

£1,400m a year cost of accidents at work

By Frances Williams

Accidents at work cost the country between £700m and £1,400m a year in lost production, damage to equipment and medical expenses, according to estimates for 1978-79 by the Health and Safety Executive.

When the pain, grief and suffering of the victims, their relatives and friends are taken into account, the costs are substantially greater.

The study, a summary of which is published in the latest issue of the *Employment Gazette*, puts a tentative value of £400m on these "subjective costs" of industrial accidents, based on the sum society is willing to pay out in social security benefits to the victims and their families.

The study also reckons that workers suffering from

prescribed industrial diseases cost the country about £90m in 1978-79, of which £56m or so represents production and other resource costs.

Industrial accidents and diseases together may amount to between 0.5 and 0.9 per cent of gross national product, the article states. If subjective costs are included the total rises to between 0.8 and 1.2 per cent of gnp.

The executive gives a warning that "officially recorded injury accidents and cases of prescribed industrial disease alone seriously underestimate the problem in total". Unrecorded minor accidents may account for between one-fifth and three-fifths of the total resource cost of workplace accidents, the study suggests.

Overtime pick-up points to easing of recession

The easing of recession, evident from production and figures over the past few months, is reflected in the statistics for overtime and short time working. Short time fell again in September from 2.4 to 2.2 million hours a week, down by a quarter from the January peak of 8.5 million hours. This compares with well below a million hours a week before the recession began in mid-1979.

The proportion of manual workers in manufacturing on short time has fallen from nearly 14 per cent in January to about 4½ per cent in September, with the West Midlands hardest hit (9 per cent of its blue-collar workers on short time) and the South East least affected (2 per cent on short time).

Overtime working in September was similar to the previous month at 10.2 million hours a week, up from the low point of 8 million hours a week in March, but substantially less than the 15 million hours a week of

overtime being worked at the end of 1979.

The pick-up in activity in manufacturing industry since the summer is also reflected in labour turnover figures. These show a rise in the engagement rate to nearly 1½ per 100 employees in September, about twice the rate at the beginning of the year.

In contrast, the late 1970s saw engagement rates between 1½ and 2½ per cent while in the 1950s and 1960s the rate varied between 2½ and 3 per cent.

□ Days lost through strikes rose to 294,000 in October, according to provisional figures published in the *Gazette*, from 157,000 in September and 106,000 in August. The total for the first 10 months of 1981 of nearly 3.5 million days lost is the lowest for 14 years, apart from 1976 when 3.3 million days were lost through strikes in the whole year.

Eleven strikes accounted for more than three-quarters of the days lost in October,

Slow move to worker involvement

By David Felton

Company managements are slowly moving towards more employee involvement as executives realize the benefits to be gained by consulting their workforces on business performance, according to a Confederation of British Industry survey published yesterday.

The survey, which covered 413 large and small companies employing a total of more than three million people — 25 per cent of the private sector workforce — also revealed that many companies were not carrying out enough joint consultation. Sir Raymond Pennock, CBI president, said:

"If these are the kind of results we get from the best companies, then the worst will surely give cause for concern". Sir Raymond added. The CBI asked 1,047 companies to participate in the survey.

Sir Raymond said extension of employee involvement would be "a very important priority" for his remaining term as president, and a series of meetings of industrialists is to be held around the country in the next few months to try to persuade executives to seek more worker participation.

Sir Raymond said that the survey showed there had been an increase over the past three years in the number of companies which involved workers in decision-making, and it was also clear that employers did not favour legislation on the matter.

"The CBI has always argued that the voluntary approach to involvement is the right one and that legislation would in practice do little to improve relationships and understanding", the CBI president said.

Sir Raymond continued: "Now more than ever before, companies must ensure their employees really are involved in decision-making, otherwise many of the lessons of economic reality painfully learnt through and during the recession could be lost in the future by shortsighted actions and industrial conflict."

IN BRIEF

Rediffusion to sell subsidiary

□ Rediffusion "is to sell Rediffusion CMC Europe, the loss-making continental computer subsidiary which it bought only two years ago. Mr. Richard Overend, the group financial controller, refused to identify the company which is to buy Rediffusion CMC, for "a nominal consideration".

Rediffusion CMC, known as Telexis until Rediffusion acquired it in 1979, does not operate in Britain. Mr. Overend said the sale would have no effect on the British subsidiary.

Rediffusion Computers, of Crawley, West Sussex.

Rediffusion has a factory near Paris, employing nearly 100 people, and smaller operations in several other European countries.

China loan

□ China is to float its first loan on the international capital market in the coming weeks. China International Trust and Investment Corporation will issue private placement notes in Japan for a value of 10,000m yen (£23.3m). A second 10,000m yen will be launched later.

Airline shares sale

□ The Japanese government, the largest shareholder of Japan Air Lines, is to sell 2.53 million JAL shares to investors and corporate customers next month. The government stake will then fall to 38.3 per cent from 40.3 per cent.

AEG in Hongkong

□ AEG-Telefunken, the West German electrical group, is entering a joint venture with Sun Hong Kai (China), of Hongkong, an import-export and marketing company. AEG-Telefunken SHK China, with capital totalling HK\$1m (£92,250), will explore the Chinese market for industrial installations and electrical products.

Austrian wages

□ Austrian wage negotiators are falling in line with counterparts elsewhere in Europe by accepting significant cuts in real wages. Two leading unions have already agreed to wage increases far below most inflation projections.

Italian gdp falls

□ Italy's seasonally adjusted gross domestic product fell 1.6 per cent in the 1981 third quarter from the previous quarter and was down 0.3 per cent from the year-earlier quarter. The decline was said to be due to the slump in industrial activity.

German car sales

□ Car sales in West Germany fell 1.6 per cent in the 1981 third quarter from the previous quarter and was down 0.3 per cent from the year-earlier quarter. The decline was said to be due to the slump in industrial activity.

The 1m peso note

□ The Argentine Central Bank began circulating a new 1m peso banknote yesterday, the highest denomination note circulated in the country. It is worth about \$83 (£46).

Chinese oil

□ Speakers at an oil conference in Peking have suggested China may be able to double its oil production in 20 years, reducing Asia's dependence on uncertain Middle East supplies.

W German surplus

□ West Germany announced its first balance of payments surplus for more than two years, reflecting a surge in exports over recent months and falling imports, especially of oil. Statistics show a current account surplus of DM 2,900m (£675m) last month.

Discount rate

□ Japan's industrial structure council has proposed to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry that the 6.25 per cent Bank of Japan official discount rate should be lowered as soon as conditions are right to encourage capital spending and economic expansion.

Japan export record

□ The Japan machinery exporters' association reported yesterday that first-half fiscal 1981 reached an all-time high for any six-month period on record. The exports totalled \$51,700m (£26,700m), a 23.8 per cent jump on the corresponding period last year.

West for sharp cut in dependence on OPEC

From Michael Parrott, Paris, Nov 25

The West's dependence on supplies from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is likely to fall sharply during the next 20 years as oil becomes a much less important element in energy requirements.

According to a report published in Paris by the International Energy Agency, net oil imports of member-countries will fall to 14.8 million barrels a day in the year 2000, from 24.5

million in 1979. This is because the share taken by North America would fall from 294 to 285 and from 426 to 100 (million tonnes respectively).

The report, entitled *Shaping the Energy Transition*, was prepared by Mr. Richard Lamb, an energy economist working at the agency. Although the agency insists that the opinions expressed in the report are those of the author, it is the first time the

agency has published comprehensive figures of possible production and consumption in the year 2000.

The decline in overall oil demand — to 1.32 million tonnes from 1.81 million in 1979 — is a sharp growth in the consumption of alternative energy. Coal's proportion of requirement of the area is expected to rise from 20.0 to 30.5 per cent.

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Dutch, dependable and developing worldwide — as well as in London

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

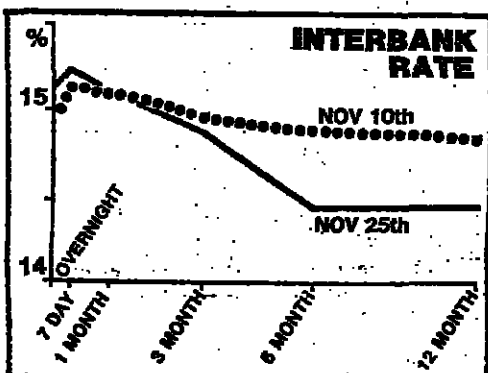
Rothmans rides the fall in sterling

After losing out by £15m last year because of a strong pound, Rothmans has since been enjoying sterling's decline. Of the £11.8m rise in pretax profits to £52.6m in the half-year to September 30, perhaps £8m was due to exchange rate movements. This apart, there has been some underlying growth. Associate companies lifted their contribution by four-fifths to £12.5m, reflecting strong performances in Ireland, the Far East and Antipodes. For the group as a whole Rothmans is claiming a 1 per cent gain in tobacco volume, as well as better margins, although the group shared fully in the sharp drop in the United Kingdom market. Price competition has eased, however, in the United Kingdom and export volume was up.

Since the end of the half year sterling has clawed back about 7 per cent against the dollar and the final outcome will clearly depend heavily on year-end currency rates. Current cost figures have also been hammered in the first half by a much larger cost of sales adjustment on leaf stocks where the price has been pushed up by a stronger dollar; but Rothmans, which has traditionally boasted at least a securely covered dividend, expects the current cost position to look better in the second half.

With currencies still very much the unknown factor, then, historic cost profits could run out a round £90m this year compared with £71m in 1980-81, and assuming the 15 per cent half-year dividend rise is carried through to the final, the shares — up 2½ to 81½p yesterday — yield a prospective 7.4 per cent. At this level, though, the real influence on the shares is more whether Phillip Morris with its 22 per cent stake will eventually bid further than the fundamentals.

● The Bank of England dropped its dealing rates in its open market operations by one sixteenth of a point yesterday. All the signs are that the authorities would not, in fact, object to a half point cut in base rates in the near future. The clearing banks' problem continues to be that hump at the very short end of the interbank yield curve, — still slightly more pronounced than when they last cut base rates earlier this month.



Burton Group After the recovery

The question posed by the latest figures from Burton Group is this: what does the clothing chain do for an encore? Pretax profits for the year to August have climbed from £12.6m to £16.4m on sales down from £196m to £190m. The obvious fear is that with the bulk of its streamlining and surgery over, Burton will now be viewed as a dull, straightforward clothing retailer tempted to flood the market with share paper to make an acquisition or two.

In its latest year Burton has closed more manufacturing capacity and sold fringe laggards and loss-makers such as Evans Mail Order, Ryman, and the French interests. And it is less elimination of some £4m in these areas that explains the rise to £18.7m in trading profits. A fall in borrowings has meant

an interest charge saving of £1.1m, to give operating profits of £14.5m, against £9.5m, before adding in exceptional property profits of £1.8m, down from £3.1m.



Mr. Ralph Halpern, chairman, Burton Group

Further loss elimination could carry operating profits up from £14.5m to around £16m this year, and total profits, including exceptional, from £16.4m to, say, £18m, if the group continues to gain market share. The bigger dividend (precluding a yield of just over 7 per cent) is 1.4 times covered by profits, inflation adjusted, and the group still owns the freehold of two-fifths of its property.

Kwik Save Winning the price war

Full year pretax profits of £19.3m from Kwik Save were towards the lower end of market expectations, with the group unable quite to match the exceptional pace of the previous year's second half. Even so, there is little to quibble at. The pretax figure may be up only 27 per cent on last year, which took in some exceptional property profits, but the growth in trading is just over a third.

With shoppers ever more cost conscious, the company has benefited from its continuing price advantage, not least as rivals such as Tesco have started to pull back from the price war. Volume through existing selling space was 5 per cent up on the previous year. In addition, rentals from concessionaires inside Kwik Save's stores raised their contribution from £2.7m to £3.7m, while lower stock levels improved cash flow and generated interest earnings of £841,000, against a net debit of £72,000 a year earlier.

Hongkong Wharf Merger terms challenged

Just when it looked as if Sir Yue-kong Pao was bringing to an end a sorry and expensive chapter in the history of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company by merging it through a reverse takeover with his World International shipping group, some Wharf shareholders are crying "foul!" The crux of their argument is that Wharf's paying at least HK\$3,200m (£300m), by issuing 411 million new shares at a discount to net asset value, and paying HK\$583m in cash, is poor exchange for buying a shipping fleet recently valued at HK\$2,400m, especially when Wharf shareholders can look forward to the fruits of property developments now underway.

The shareholders in question are understood to be mostly outside the Jardine, Matheson camp from which Sir Yue-kong so spectacularly wrenched Wharf last year, although their financial advisers are Jardine, Fleming, Jardine, Fleming yesterday advised rejection of Sir Yue-kong's terms. Also taking a close look at the terms may be the colony's much-abused Takeovers Committee.

Economic notebook

What kind of recovery?

The Chancellor had a tough only expected to rise by 8 per cent in the year to next spring. On this basis, the Select Committee about how the Treasury, Mr. Nigel Lawson, argued that the government's policy was not

little bemused by it all, since the latest figures for output gave ample room to finance a recovery has at last begun. Since then the numbers have changed. Inflation is now 12 per cent, money supply has grown by more than the Government had hoped, but the plan is to rein in the next 12 months. The theory is usually known as the "cross-over" theory. This is because it says that when money supply, allowing for problems about how fast the money goes round, is set to grow slower than inflation there is a downturn and when it is growing faster there is expansion.

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Leopold Vielhaber: exporting skis to Austria.

Off the nursery slopes

There has been the first dusting of winter on the Highland summits. In the gullies of Ben Nevis and Glencoe the cold will soon freeze the choked snow into hard ribbons of ice and in the alps the snowlines are descending.

To that seasonal rhythm is attached an industry in Britain turning over at least £200m a year in equipment and clothing, making and selling everything from the elegant fashions of the skier to the hardy survival gear of the winter mountaineer.

In the last four years a proliferation of small manufacturing firms has broadened the range of outdoor sports products and attacked the continental companies exporting to Britain. But the recession has squeezed profit margins and driven some to the wall.

"It is totally untrue to say that it is all growth, that the industry doesn't feel the cold in the economy," says Mr. Michael Parsons, managing director of Karrimor International, one of the leading outdoor equipment makers.

"At the present major distributors and retailers are fighting very hard. The only reassurance is that leisure has an obvious future when the economy picks up again. Outdoor sports are now becoming woven even into the educational system."

Mr. Ron Taylor, chairman of the Camping and Outdoor Leisure Association which represents a large section of the clothing and equipment wholesalers in the industry, has a rather different perspective on leisure. "Without being cynical there are already three million people who know all about extra leisure time. With their chip selling shortening the working week for people who have jobs the government must eventually do something to encourage the creative use of all the spare time there is going to be."

"We need to follow the European example and learn how to enjoy leisure to the full."

One Scottish company which has entered an area once dominated totally by the continentals is Vielhaber Skis of Aviemore. Mr. Leopold Vielhaber, is an Austrian who came to Scotland on holiday

in 1967, ran out of money and stayed. "I started by repairing skis and then manufacturing them. We now make 2,000 skis a year and are the only ski manufacturer in Britain," says Mr. Vielhaber.

He is training staff in the mysteries of resins and carbon fibre with the aim of doubling production next year and eventually reaching 12,000 skis annually. Where many manufacturers are concentrating the Aviemore company is expanding chiefly on the smaller, specialist side of the market.

"I started by repairing skis and then manufacturing them. We now make 2,000 skis a year and are the only ski manufacturer in Britain."

The company has a turnover of £250,000 and is setting up a national distribution network. Mr. Vielhaber has the great satisfaction of exporting skis to his native Austria.

Sweden, Austria, Finland and France still dominate ski clothing and equipment but there are encouraging signs of British manufacturers responding to the potentially rich market.

There are about a million skiers in Britain, of whom 400,000 will go abroad this winter.

"Multiply that into skis, ski suits, socks, boots and travel bookings and you have a very substantial industry," says Mr. Ian Graeme, vice-president of the British Ski Federation.

Cross country skiing has become popular although nowhere near the Swedish scale where the premier competition alone attracts five mass states of 5,000 each. Think of it in terms of turnover and clothing when a decent pair of skis

costs about £100 and a skisuit may be £150. For the mountaineer winter can be costly. Down-filled clothing, survival gear, harnesses, snow anchors, ropes, double-thickness boots, crampons and a selection of ice screws and karabiners topped by a rucksack and woolly hat may set him back more than £600.

Mr. Hugh McNicholl, an ice-climbing enthusiast and former aerospace engineer with Rolls-Royce, recently opened a factory at Ballachulish, between Oban and Fort William producing ice axes and winter climbing equipment.

"Demand is good and interest in winter climbing is growing chiefly because of what modern materials make possible," he says. "I am processing about 1,000 ice axes at the moment and looking for two more people to come into the business with me." Mountain Technology, as the company is called, has been helped by the Highlands and Islands Development Board, a government body aiming to improve employment in the area.

At the established end of the industry some companies that started life as suppliers to mountaineering retailers are branching out. Troll Safety Equipment of Oldham, which specialises in climbing harnesses which absorb the shock of a fall without injury or allow the climber to dangle comfortably from his cliff, reports that 15 per cent of its output goes to industry to steepen jacks, electricity linemen or foresters seeking greater comfort in high-level work.

The company has improved annual turnover from £30 in 1965 to £600,000 this year and 40 per cent of production is exported.

Troll products withstood tests by a group from the Oxford University Danger Club who, wearing morning dress and Troll harnesses, jumped from a suspension bridge and dropped several hundred feet before their fall was painlessly checked. More effort is now going to be put into industrial applications.

The mountaineering market has, so to speak, peaked.

Ronald Faux

Business Diary: What Beeching would do

Were the Government to ask Lord Beeching to chair its proposed new inquiry into the railways he would give it "my earnest consideration" his lordship said from his Sussex home yesterday with the kind of weighty phrase associated with his chairmanship of BR in the early sixties.

"But I would not necessarily decide to do it," he added guardedly, speaking continued disillusion with governments.

"It might be a good idea to have a new inquiry," he said, "but what is really needed is action. I left a perfectly good plan just before I left the railways in 1965. It should have been implemented."

That was his sequel to the famous Beeching report, the Trunk Route Rationalization Plan, which called for a reduction in Britain's railway from about 14,500 miles, as it then was, to 6,000. It may happen yet, but by a process of slow attrition rather than the fast logic he applied.

"The railway problem has not changed," said the 68-year-old peer. "It is basically the same but considerably worse, because the taxpayer is now being charged five times as much to keep it going."

The solution is still to tailor the network to those routes between large centres of population where heavy flows of passengers and freight are right for rail. Paying £750m a year for the rest was simply camouflage. There may be a benefit to someone, but I should like to see it demonstrated," Com-



Two images of "British Corporate Leaders". Which would you say is the truth?

Kora lore

Hands up anybody who chooses Richard Willson's right-hand cartoon as representative of the British boss, or worse still, sees himself in it. In the first case you are wrong, and in the second, unrepresentative, or so says Professor David Norburn of the London Business School.

Norburn heads a team of LBS graduate students who checked out 418 executives in big companies taken from The Times Top 1000 and found "the external image is much different to the expected profile."

Your archetypal British boss, Norburn and his team found, is a 50-year-old man, and one who seldom drinks or smokes, is still on his first wife by whom he has two children. He has been 20 years with his present company, seldom suffers from stress, rarely takes home work and gets eight hours' sleep a night.

That does not sound much like most of the bosses I have known, and indeed it does not sound too much like either Norburn or the man who commissioned British corporate leaders profile, Sir John Trelawny, the deputy managing director of the executive search company Korn/Ferry International.

Norburn is 40, ten years younger than his "Mr. Average," works for six different organizations, is on his second wife, needs at least eight hours sleep a night, does suffer stress.

Sir John Trelawny, at 47 and still with a number one, is a bit more average than far, but admits to drinking and smoking too much.

Ross Davies

Hello (plus VAT)

You really have to hand it to the folks at Channel 4 — or do you?

The "it" in question is £150 (plus VAT), which is what potential advertisers are being asked for a preliminary look-see at what the new television channel has in store.

You will have to wait for another year to see the real thing, but in January the conference organizers Oyaz IBC are staging a one day affair called "Introducing Channel 4" which will be addressed by chief executive Jeremy Isaacs and managing director Justin Dukes.

Interestingly enough, the chairman of the proceedings will not be Channel 4's own chairman Edmund Dell — who hates public speaking — but his former Labour Party colleague IBA chairman Lord Thomson of Monifieth, who just loves to be heard.

It is still a moot point whether advertisers need Channel 4 more than Channel 4 needs the advertisers.

The controversy over the merits or otherwise of "pin-point" spectacles has prompted a reminiscence from reader C. F. Woodbridge of Bridgnorth. He once checked on consignments of spectacles from Hong Kong meant for sale in Africa when he found that many were of plain glass. He was told that in some countries such prestige went with wearing glasses that even the perfectly-sighted wore them.

Hambros Interim Statement

Results for the half year to 30th September, 1981

Banking profits are broadly the same as those of the same period last year. Hambro Life Assurance and Berkeley Hambro Property Company have both increased their interim dividends. Results from other non-banking operations are lower, partly due to adverse trading conditions and partly to the cost of carrying investments, especially in oil and gas, from which no benefit has been taken in the half year but where indications for the future are encouraging. The overall result for the Group is a little lower than that for the same period last year.

Dividends

Interim dividends on the £2 (50p paid) shares and the 5p (fully paid) shares will be at rates approximately 17% above those of last year. Payment will be made on 5th January, 1982 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 17th December, 1981. The rates of interim dividends net of tax credit will be:

£2 (50p paid) shares: 15.25p per share (1980: 13p)
5p (fully paid) shares: 1.525p per share (1980: 1.3p)
£1 "A" shares: 2.1p per share (1980: 2.1p)

Hambros PLC

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Equities advance after new cut in US prime

London continued to take its cue from New York in a day of fluctuating fortunes when interest rates remained the main focus.

Equities opened strongly with investors convinced that a cut in domestic base rates was imminent after Tuesday night's 1 per cent reduction to 15 1/2 per cent in US prime rates.

In the present thin conditions jobbers had no choice but to mark prices sharply higher with investors prepared to pay exorbitant sums for their stocks. Nevertheless the tactic appeared to work and by mid-

morning the market showed signs of boiling over in places. This was the sign for investors to beat a hasty retreat amid growing concern over the Government's continuing over-spending and a possible confrontation with the miners over pay.

Interest after hours was again restored with news of a further prime rate cut by the St Louis Bank to 15 1/2 per cent and another exceptionally strong start to trading in Wall St.

The FT Index opened 7.9 up then retreated to a net rise of 3.5 at 1 pm and finally closed 6.2 up at 526.2.

Glits reported a steadier performance with further hefty gains reported at the latter end of the market on the back of the latest surge in the value of sterling and the continuing rally on the US bond market.

At the shorter end the Government broker was able to supply around £150m of the new short tap Exchequer 14 per cent 1986 at £401. In addition, he was reported to have

sold small amounts from the three mini-taps announced last Friday.

The final picture showed long closing 1 1/2 off their best while in shorts losses of up to £3/16 were reported.

Leading industrials spent another mixed day with most prices closing below their best levels. ICI trended 4p to 286p, Glaxo 2p to 432p, Boverat 2p to 210p, GKN 6p to 173p, Grand Metropolitan 3p to 178p, Tube Investments 2p to 106p and Vickers 5p to 150p. Allied-Lyons, reporting next week, closed 1p dearer at 72 1/2p.

Against the trend, Seachem shed 2p to 223p, Fisons 2p to 133p, Hawker Siddeley 2p to 318p and Courtauld, reporting today, 2p to 66p. There, analysts are looking for a first half performance of between £15m and £20m compared with the dismal corresponding figure of just over £2m.

Elsewhere, interest was further stimulated by a reasonably long list of favourable trading news. Better than expected profits news lifted Anderson Strathclyde 8p to 51p, Spring Grove 1 1/2p to 84 1/2p and Sound Diffusion 2p to 44p. Wedgwood celebrated a more than doubled profits performance with a 7 1/2p rise at 87p, but the performance from Kwik Save Discount, down 4p to 222p, and Brickhouse Dudley, down 1p to 42p, were discounted.

In tobacco Rothmans International "B" climbed 2 1/2p to 31 1/2p after its first half profits news with Alfred Dunhill 10p stronger at 238p for the same reason. BAT Industries closed 3p harder at 345p after comment.

Recent losses wiped 3p from Transparent Paper at 21p with Matthew Hall 5p up at 210p ahead of figures next week.

With the state of bid speculation and good trading news the building sector remained a highlight. BPB Industries added 6p to 312p after recent figures with French Kier up 2p at 84 1/2p and

Redland 4p higher at 160p. Both report today. Pilkington Bros jumped 5p to 285p ahead of profits news next week-end. Barrow Developments, still making the most of its recent optimistic annual report, put on 3p to 245p before reverting to unchanged at 142p.

Blue Circle advanced 6p to 482p amid reports of a brokers' lunch at W. Greenwell and favourable comment was good. 6p on Redfearn National Glass at 107p. Rumours of a 5p share bid from T. W. Ward in an attempt to fend off the

Share of the Bank Organisation advanced 6p to 152p after the appearance of a large buyer who picked up 150,000 shares in one go.

Attention of RTZ swept the market early, but the price closed only 1/2p dearer at 505p. Strong support was also seen in Tarmac, up 10p at 372p.

On the bid front, Esperanza Trading rose 3p to 143p after rejecting the terms from RTZ, up 4p to 356p. Ballie remained unchanged at 201p despite the news that Laurie Millbank had sold 25,000 shares in the market on behalf of General Tire & Rubber who have already stated they would not be raising their 200p a share bid.

Equity turnover on November 24 was £11,797m (13,076 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Bowater, Rothmans "B", Plessey, Scapa, Wedgwood, Hambros and Charter Con.

Trading options: Total contracts traded was 1,362 of which puts accounted for 319. ICI met support on 134 contracts.

Traditional options: Calls were made in Royal Bank of Scotland on 22p, RMBans, International on 7p and Bougainville on 10p. A put was arranged in Royal Bank of Scotland on 16p and a double in Town & City on 31p.

Johnson Matthey tops £23m in first half

By Michael Prest

Johnson Matthey, the bankers and precious metal fabricator and refiners, defied low gold and platinum prices by increasing pretax profits to £23.1m from £19.6m during the six months to the end of September.

But the dividend has been maintained at 3p net. This is paid, however, on shares whose number was swelled by last December's rights issue, which raised £47m.

The rights issue proceeds have been important in supporting Johnson Matthey's profits. Mr Ernest Pateman, the company's finance director, estimates that the lower interest charge released about £3m to the profit and loss account.

Nevertheless, the improved pretax results were achieved from sales of £409m compared with £433m in the first half of the previous year. After exchange gains of £42.7m on current assets, against £14.7m last year, earnings per share were 24.5p, up 0.6p.

The banking operations are holding up well, but bullion trading in London, New York and Hong Kong is suffering from both lower prices and, crucially, lower volumes. Depressed trading on the London Metal Exchange and other commodity markets also put a brake on expansion.

But the manufacturing and refining side still enjoys firm demand. Mr Pateman said the company's platinum customers had stayed loyal, despite the slump in the price of the metal, in which Johnson Matthey is a world leader. The Japanese platinum jewelry market, by contrast, continues to expand on expansion.

Domestic sales of colours, on which Johnson Matthey has invested heavily in recent years, were below expectations. But exports are rising and there are signs Mr Pateman said that home destocking is ending.

Wedgwood doubles at half-time

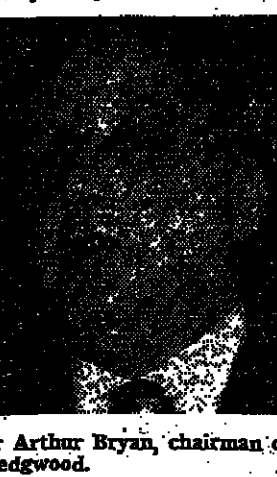
By Margaret Pagano

Wedgwood, the fine bone china and pottery group widely regarded as the barometer of British exports, yesterday delighted the stockmarket with a 140 per cent boost in half-year pretax profits to £23.9m.

Sales of Royal Wedgwood commemorative ware, an increase in exports to the United States and other markets and the swing in sterling's value against other currencies, were all cited as reasons for the increase. In the six months to October, the group pushed turnover up from £49m to £60m.

After "better-than-expected" trading in the first quarter which pushed pretax profits up from £17.6m to £23.9m and sales up from £49m to £60m.

On a satisfactory growth course. So the second quarter has confirmed that trading seems to be nearly back on course with a 31 per cent rise in sales.



Sir Arthur Bryan, chairman of Wedgwood.

But Sir Arthur is still withholding any forecasts for the year because of few signs in the industry that Britain's depression has bottomed out.

"For the tableware industry, in particular, which is heavily dependent on exports for its prosperity, the deepening effects of the rapidly developing recession in Europe must cast a shadow over prospects for the remainder of this financial year and those for 1982 to 1983," he said.

Operating profit in the period increased to £5.28m, against £3.1m, which was knocked by interest charges, albeit lower than last time, of £1.3m.

Higher profits were due largely to sterling's increase against other currencies, which was beneficial with some 60 per cent of the group's goods exported.

Talbex cuts loss, but outlook still difficult

By Our Financial Staff

Talbex, the troubled London-based soap to aerosol group, appears to be showing some improvement in its figures with the loss after tax for the year to the end of last July down from £1.2m to £340,000. No dividend is being paid, however, and shares closed unchanged at 44p.

Group turnover came to £9.3m against £16.9m. But excluding two subsidiaries that are no longer part of the group the comparative turnover was £1.1m.

Mr David Green, the chairman, says in his annual review: "The year under review has been exceedingly difficult for the group, especially at Osmond Aerosols which reported its first loss since 1972."

"The recession, both in this country and throughout the world, is deeper and longer than most commentators expected, and it has resulted in lessening demand for many of our products, which means that margins have been eroded."

"In addition, the progress of the Walker Lunt receivership to date has been disappointing. Nevertheless, the group has succeeded in reducing borrowings from £1.2m to £726,000 during the year."

On the Walker Lunt receivership, the company says there remain substantial areas where recovery is doubtful. On the basis of information presently available to the board, the eventual deficiency appears likely to be between £200,000 and £700,000. In these circumstances the directors consider it appropriate to maintain the existing provision of £620,000," a company statement adds.

An analysis of the company's subsidiaries shows that Osmond Aerosols of Grimsby made a loss of £35,000 on turnover of £4.3m. A.P. Skelton, the Herefordshire-based manufacturer and installer of heating and ventilating ductwork systems, made a trading profit of £22,000 on a turnover of £2.9m.

Residential property fund launch

By Baron Phillips

Investors are for the first time being given the opportunity to take advantage of the substantial growth in residential capital values through the launch of a Residential Property Bond.

The scheme has been devised by Henderson Administration, which manages about £800m of investment through a number of funds and bonds.

Unlike existing property bonds which concentrate investments on the commercial, retail and industrial markets, the new bond will deal exclusively with flats and houses, for which Henderson is forecasting a net yield of 4 per cent to 5 per cent.

The fund will buy only up-market residential property in London in areas such as Mayfair, St John's Wood and Knightsbridge which will then be rented to corporate or diplomatic tenants at rents of more than £250 a week.

It will be linked to a single premium life policy to be underwritten by a provincial Life Assurance, while Hamilton & Sons, estate agents and surveyors, will manage the properties.

The minimum stake is £500. The fund has already negotiated a buy-lease bedroom flat in Arlington Road, behind the Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly for £75,000.

Average prices of Henderson's acquisitions are expected to be around £150,000. Because the fund is concentrating on expensive flats and houses many of the pitfalls of the rented sector will be avoided. Restrictions of the Rent Act will not apply because properties purchased by the fund will have a rateable value in excess of £1,500, above the limit governed by existing landlord/tenant legislation in the Act.

Overseas boost for Anderson Strathclyde

Pretax profits of Anderson Strathclyde, the mining and industrial equipment manufacturer headed by a former British Steel chairman Sir Monty Fimiston, rose in the half year to September from £2.8m to £4.1m. Turnover increased from £37.7m to £46.2m.

The increases in turnover and profits were achieved despite the depressed home market. The activities of the group's subsidiaries in the United States, Australia and South Africa accounted for a significant part of the increases, with their combined turnover almost doubled at £12.2m and net trading profit up from £430,000 to £1.5m.

The board expects that turnover for the second half will increase more slowly than in the first six months.

Britannia fund

Britannia Managed Currency Fund, the Jersey-based fund investing in international bank deposits, has obtained a listing on the London Stock Exchange from next Monday.

This follows the listing last week of the Britannia Dollar Income Fund Ltd.

The Britannia Managed Currency Fund is one of the funds managed by Britannia International Investment in Jersey, a subsidiary of the Britannia Investment Companies currently responsible for the management of more than £500m on behalf of more than 200,000 investors.

Long & Hambly

Long and Hambly fell more deeply into the red in the year to July 31, than it did in the preceding 12 months. With turnover down from £16.8m to £12.0m, the group made a pretax loss of £1.24m, compared with a pretax loss of £193,000 in 1979-80. For the second year running, there is no ordinary dividend.

The board expects the monthly accounting period ending on December 5 to show a small profit and, thereafter, the group should make satisfactory profits.

Charterhall

Mr Derek Williams, chairman of Charterhall Ltd, the United Kingdom-based independent oil, gas and minerals group, revealed at the annual meeting that plans for the public flotation of the Australian Group are well advanced for the further development of Charterhall's interests in Australia.

Charterhall is now well placed to consider opportunities for further increasing its asset growth.

Monks Investment

Gross investment income of Monks Investment Trust slipped from £2.1m to £2.01m in the half year to October 31. An unchanged investment of 1.57p gross is being paid. The board expects to recommend a final of 1.85p gross, maintaining the year's total at 34.2p gross, even though this may call for some drawing on revenue reserves.

Essex Water

Essex Water's offer for sale by tender of £5m, 10 per cent redeemable preference stock, 1986, attracted applications for £12.34m of stock. The lowest price to receive a partial allotment was £101.52 and the average price obtained was £101.66.

George Oliver

George Oliver's bid for Hiltons Footwear is now unconditional. Oliver now owns or has received acceptances for 4.41m shares in Hiltons, the 95.7 per cent offer remains open until December 9.

BASE LENDING RATES

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	15%
Barclays	15%
BCCI	15%
Consolidated Credit	15%
C. Hoare & Co	15%
City of London	15%
Midland Bank	15%
Nat Westminster	15%
TSB	15%
Williams and Glyn's	15%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 or more 13%
£10,000-£25,000 12.5%
£25,000-£50,000 12%

Computer and Systems to go public

By Our Financial Staff

Computer and Systems Engineering-CASE—the Watford-based telecommunications and computing group, is going public next month. A total of 2.5m shares will be offered for sale by G. Warburg, London merchant bank, at 225p each, representing 35 per cent of the enlarged share capital of the group.

The proceeds of the issue, about £5m, will be used to repay bank loans and finance future expansion, particularly overseas.

Profits for the year to the end of December are forecast at not less than £1.2m before tax, against £942,000.

Ferguson Lacey and Bond in new deal

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey is expected to announce major changes to the management of the company. It was Mr Bond's company which stepped in to save Mr Lacey's plans for the United States Simplicity Pattern group when they looked like being abandoned by an American investor Mr Carl Leach.

The two have had business dealings before and are said to get on well. It was Mr Bond's 29 per cent stake in Hampton Gold Mining Areas which was bought by Mr Lacey and which he sold 15 months later for a £1.1m profit at £8.4m.

Mr Bond, whose Bond Corporation is a diversified

Heron chief bids for minority

Mr Gerald Renson, who runs the Heron International petrol station, car distribution, insurance and property group, is bidding up his motor interests through the Heron Corporation subsidiary, making a bid for the 32 per cent of Heron Motor Group it does not already own.

Heron Corporation may offer 28p a share for the outstanding shares in the motor company which is valued at £1.1m in total by the bid, according to a joint statement.

The shares of Heron Motor Group rose 5p to 28 1/2p on the news yesterday.

Director named at Abbey National

By Our Financial Staff

Sir Edward Singleton has been made a director of Abbey National Building Society from December 15. He is a past president of the Law Society and was on the Council of the Law Society from 1961 to 1980. Sir Edward is also chairman of the Solicitors Law Stationery Society.

Mr John Spencer Willis will be retiring from the chairmanship of the British Electric Traction Company in June and will be succeeded by Mr Hugh Dundas, deputy chairman, who will remain a full-time executive.

Mr Nicholas K. Spencer Willis will be made managing director in place of Mr Dundas.

Mr Plato Malozemoff is to become a director of Consolidated Gold Fields.

Mr Geoffrey Johnson Smith, Mr J. Douglas Hamilton and (from January 1) Mr Christopher Bland and Mr John Birt are now on the board of LWT (Holdings).

Mr John Birt and Mr Roland Freeman have joined the board of London Weekend Television.

Mr Peter K. J. Vadey has been appointed president of RCA/Columbia Pictures International Video.

Mr Mike Bright is now chairman and managing director of Koury Insurance Group. Mr Kenneth Lane has resigned from the board of KTM after becoming director general of the Machine Tool Trades Association.

Mr R. Oliver St John and Mr Jon H. Stockland have gone on to the board of Duma Holdings.

Members of the Policyholders Protection Board appointed by Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade are: Mr C. N. Smith, a senior partner in Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., as chairman; insurance company members: Mr K. G. Addison, deputy chief general manager Sun Alliance and

Mr R. E. Leach, chief general manager Phoenix Assurance Company; Mr W. Proudfoot, general manager and secretary Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society; Mr R. K. Bishop, chief general manager Phoenix Assurance Company; Mr C. M. O'Brien, managing director and secretary National Pension Fund for Nurses; and Mr K. St. J. Robinson, general manager Northern Star Insurance Company.

ARTHUR BELL

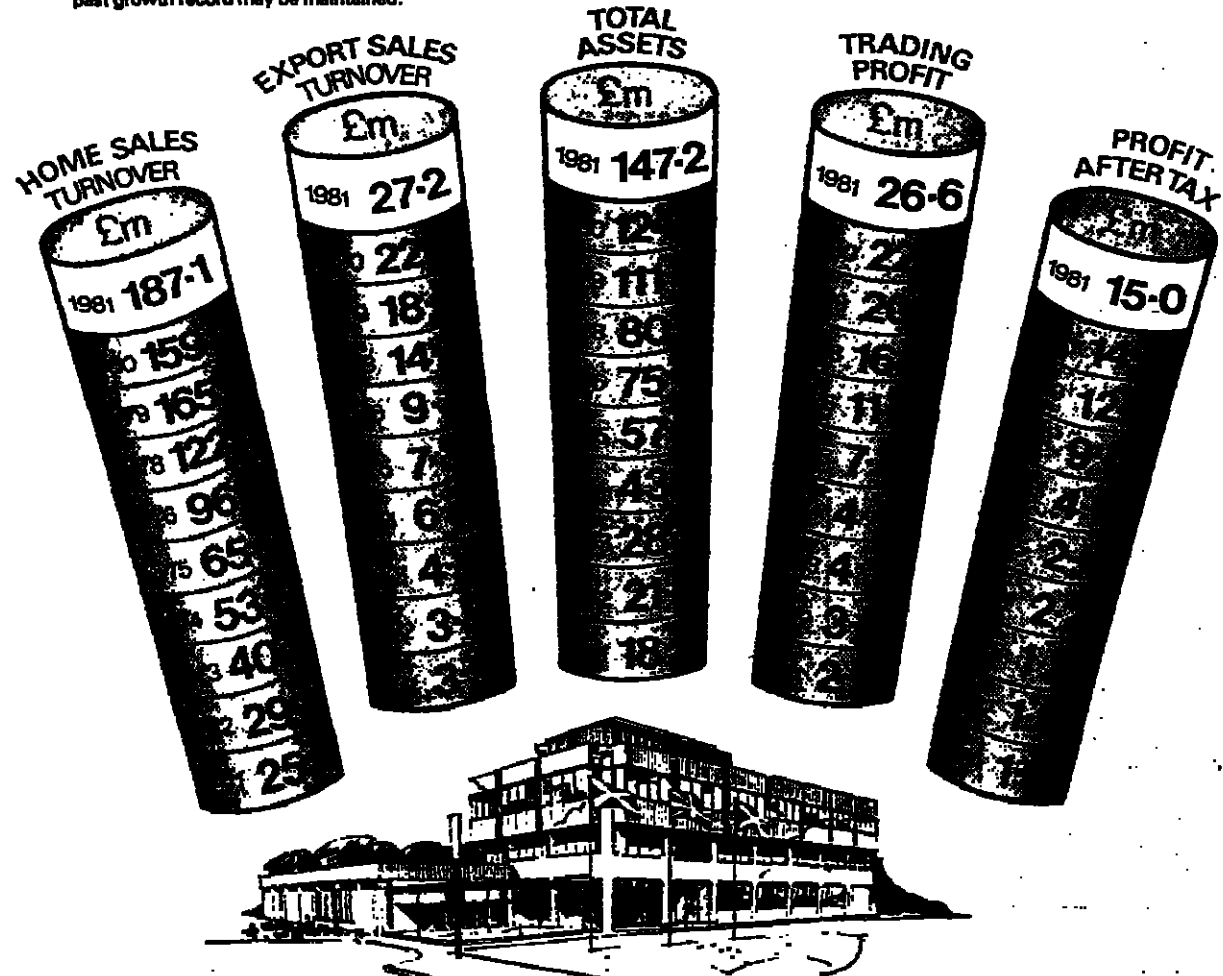
SCOTCH WHISKY DISTILLERS

Ten Years of Growth

During the ten years since the Company's Ordinary Shares were first offered for sale to the public, there has been a growth in annual profit before tax from £1.58 million in 1971 to £20.02 million in 1981. Over the same period, in excess of £33 million has been spent on building developments.

In order to meet the continued growth in sales demand, annual distillery output has been increased over the ten years from 5.81 million litres of alcohol to 13.45 million and annual bottling output has been expanded from 22 million to 77 million bottles.

The next decade is a challenging time and it will be the policy of the Company to seek areas of development in order to ensure that our past growth record may be maintained.



Extract from the Chairman's Statement: "EMPLOYEES. The results achieved by the Company over the past year would not have been possible without the full co-operation and dedicated involvement of all our employees and I express my appreciation and thanks for their continued support."

GROUP	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
EARNINGS PER SHARE (Pence)	2.7	4.0	4.1	4.7	4.7	6.7	14.0	17.5	20.6	21.5	

ARTHUR BELL & SONS LTD., ESTABLISHED 1826 — AND STILL AN INDEPENDENT COMPANY.
Copies of Arthur Bell & Sons Limited's Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, Cherrybank, Perth, Scotland.

Edited by Peter Davalle

ITV LONDON

Wogan? 2.00 Jimmy Young? 12.00
John Durnan? 2.00 Pam Ed Stewart? 4.00 David Hamilton? 5.45 News.
16.00 Don Durbridge, 8.00 Country
Club? 8.30 Alg. Cal? 10.00 The
News. Hudkins. 10.30 Star Sound
Exerts. 11.00 Brian Matthew, with
Round Midnight. 2.00-5.00 You and
the Night and the Music. ♪

Radio 1

5.00 am Aa Radio 2. 7.30 Mike Read
9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee
Travis. 2.00 pm Paul Barnett. 3.30
Steve Wright. 5.30 Paul Powell. 7.00
pm John Peel. 8.00 Dave Jensen.
10.00 John Peel. 11.30 P.O. Horne.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received
Western Europe on medium wave 848 MHz
South America on 1224 MHz, 1225 MHz
New Zealand, 7.00 World News, 7.05
Four Hours News Summary, 7.30 World
News, 8.00 News, 8.05 News, 8.10
8.00 News Summary, 8.15 Golden Thread, 8.30
Sports Roundup, 8.45 News, 8.55 News
The British Press, 9.15 The World
3.00 Financial News, 6.40 Look Ahead, 8.30
Sports Roundup, 8.45 News, 8.55 News
Just a Minute, 11.00 World News, 11.05
News, 11.10 News, 11.15 News, 11.20
11.30 Assignment, 12.00 News, 12.05
12.15 Top Ten, 12.45 Sports Roundup,
Sports Roundup, 12.55 News, 1.00
News Summary, 1.30 News, 1.45
Sports Roundup, 1.55 News, 2.00
News, 2.15 News, 2.30 News, 2.45
News, 3.15 Outlook, 4.00 World
News, 4.15 News, 4.30 News, 4.45
The World Today, 5.00 World News,
Menden, 6.00 World News, 6.05
News, 6.10 News, 6.15 News, 6.20
News, 6.25 News, 6.30 News, 6.35
News, 6.40 News, 6.45 News, 6.50
The World Today, 7.00 News, 7.05
News, 7.10 News, 7.15 News, 7.20
Sports Roundup, 7.30 World News, 7.35
Sports Roundup, 7.40 World News, 7.45

News, 12.00 News about Britain 12.15
Radio 4 News about Britain 12.15
1.00 Lord of the Flies, 1.15 Outlook, 1.
15
Update, 2.00 World News, 2.15
Radio 4 Update, 2.15
Treasury 2.30 Music Now, 3.00 World News
3.00 News about Britain 3.15 The World
Today, 3.30 Business Masters, 4.15
Newsweek 5.45 The World Today

Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz Radio 3
VHF 91-94MHz Radio 4 VHF 94-100MHz
106m and VHF 94-94MHz World Service

WESTWARD

As Thames expected: 1.20pm-1.30
News, 1.45-1.45 Kum Kum, 6.00
Westward Diary, 6.35 Crossroads.
1.00 British Schoobly and British
Cartooning Championship, 7.30-7.45
London, 10.32 News, 10.35 Westward
Report, 11.00 Medicine Man
Horobian, 11.30 Going Out, 12.00
Crosby By-Elcction, 12.40 News Faith

SOUTHERN

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 News, 1.45-4.45 Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 6.00 Day by Day, 6.30 Workaday World; Peter Whibley, stoneason, 6.45 University Challenge, 7.15-7.45 Take the Stage, 10.30 WRGP in Cincinnati, 11.00-11.30 Medicine Man; Herbalism, 12.00am Weather followed by Thinking Aloud.

ULSTER

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime, 4.13 News, 4.15-4.45 Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 5.20-5.45 Crossroads, 6.00 Good Evening Ulster, 6.50 Police Sts, 7.00 Cartoon, 7.15-7.45 Take the Stage, 10.30 Countdown; Current affairs programme with David Dunstall and Gary Gillespie, 11.00 Medicine Man; Herbalism, 11.30 Bedtime, Closesdown

**WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: * STEP 1
* BLACK AND WHITE; (R) REPEAT**

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 11-2

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هكذا من النجف